



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Delegation Head on Russian Council of Europe Membership Bid

WS2701112994 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0749 GMT 27 Jan 94

[From 27 January PAEVALEHT, p 3]

[Text] Thursday, January 27—The Council of Europe [CE] Political Commission did not approve the proposition for the extension of the CE and also expressed its clear views concerning Russia, head of the Estonian delegation Tunne Kelam announced. "Daniel Tarschys, one of the candidates for the post of secretary general, stressed in his speech that Russia has expressed signs of disrespect towards its neighbours," Kelam said. He added that only the Finnish delegation had supported Russia's rapid admission to the CE.

Kelam was one of the members to participate in the discussion. He stressed the Estonian position that Russia will have to withdraw its troops from Estonia and Latvia, give up its disrespectful attitude towards its neighbours and launch truly democratic reforms before being admitted to the CE.

Finnish Prime Minister Favors Membership

WS2701124394 Tallinn BNS in English 1054 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 27, BNS—Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho, speaking at a Parliamentary Assembly meeting of the Council of Europe [CE] in Strasbourg Tuesday [25 January], expressed support to an early membership of Russia in the European body, the head of the Estonian delegation said in a telephone interview with BNS.

"It needs to be emphasized that the Russians have chosen democracy," Aho said. He said becoming a member in the Council of Europe was an important step in the process of democratization. Therefore, Russia and the other countries that have expressed the wish to join the CE should be accepted as quickly as possible, the Finnish leader said.

When asked by the head of the Estonian delegation to the meeting, Tunne Kelam, if Russia should become a CE member even before it has withdrawn its troops from Estonia and Latvia, Aho said he favored the pullout of Russian troops, but added that Russia had to be accepted into the European body in any case.

Finland on Wednesday was the only country in the Strasbourg meeting to give its unconditional support to granting Russia a full member status. Russian officials have already made a number of statements hailing Finland.

Meeting on Paldiski Reactor Held in Stockholm

WS2701093694 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1812 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, January 26—An international meeting where technical problems of dismantling nuclear reactors at former Soviet submarine training base, Paldiski, in north west Estonia were discussed closed in Stockholm on Wednesday [26 January].

Information was exchanged and Russia presented part of its plan for dismantling its reactors at the meeting attended by Estonian, Russian and Finnish delegations, representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Commission of the European Communities and experts from Finland, Sweden, Germany and U.S., Alar Olljum, the head of the Estonian delegation, told ETA.

Other participating countries expressed willingness to support dismantling of nuclear reactors in Paldiski, Olljum added. Sweden, Finland, Germany, U.S. and the IAEA had specified the type and extent of their support, Olljum said. At technical negotiations, experts had specified how Estonia and third countries could participate in the dismantling process.

It is too early to talk of the timetable as much depends on the amount of technical support and resources by other countries, Olljum said.

Central, East European States Discuss Security Issues

LD2601193694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1506 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 Jan—The foreign ministries of central and eastern European countries are holding multilateral working consultations on issues of regional security in Ukraine for the first time ever. They are discussing general issues of security in central and eastern Europe, in particular, Ukraine's initiative on setting up a zone of stable security in the region.

During a conversation with a UNIAR correspondent, Ihor Kharchenko, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's department of political analysis and planning, underscored that participants in the consultations support the signing of the trilateral declaration in Moscow and expressed hope that such consultations will be held in the future. It is worth mentioning that representatives of all the countries of eastern Europe are taking part in the consultations. The Czech Republic is taking part as an observer.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the [Ukrainian parliament] foreign affairs commission, addressed participants in the working consultations and explained Ukraine's stand on issues of consolidating security in central and eastern Europe.

'Baltic-Black Sea Alliance' Would Exclude Russia*PM2601114994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 3*

[Valeriy Gromak report: "Baltic-Black Sea Alliance Outlined. A Place Will Be Found in the Bloc for Many, But Not for Russia"]

[Text] Vilnius—"NATO cannot now accept states which are not in complete accord," the well-known Ukrainian writer Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Commission for Foreign Affairs, has stated. "Hence, in my view, we should first undergo schooling in accord all together, not separately. We must create complete harmony in East and Central Europe."

Dmytro Pavlychko made this statement during his tour of Baltic countries, where he held talks with the heads of the Lithuanian and Latvian parliaments and leaders of committees and commissions, ministers, and opposition leaders in those countries. His tour, the mass media reported, had one aim: the creation of a Baltic-Black Sea alliance or, to be more precise, joint work on the juridical basis for such an alliance. Lithuania and the other Baltic countries, Pavlychko believes, need to look south and break out of the circle to which they have been assigned.

So an effort is clearly being made to create a Baltic-Black Sea alliance. What role in this is allotted to Russia—a state which has outlets to the Baltic and the Black Sea? Ukrainian parliamentarians expressed no opinion on this question. But it was answered back in December at the "Baltic Cooperation and Security" conference by former Estonian Defense Minister Juri Luik (now foreign minister). Expressing his support for the creation of a unified security concept for the Baltic countries, Luik called for the formation of a military-political alliance of the Baltic states without the participation of Russia, but involving Ukraine.

Black Sea Fleet Ships Begin Exercises*LD2601183594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[Text] More than 20 warships of the Black Sea Fleet began exercises as scheduled on Wednesday [26 January], a Fleet source told INTERFAX. These are intended to coordinate operational command at sea and on land and train the newly-arriving recruits.

More than 8,000 young sailors were recruited last autumn, with 4,500 of them swearing allegiance to Ukraine.

However, the source does not link the current maneuvers to Ukraine's command post exercises.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Jan*LD2601070294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0607 GMT 26 Jan 94*

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—IZVESTIYA carries a commentary, headlined "Boris Fedorov May Return, Viktor Gerashchenko May Quit", on a possible reshuffle in the Russian Government.

The newspaper points out that during the January 24 meeting with President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "according to some data, agreed to the appointment of Boris Fedorov as the minister of finance directly accountable to the premier". IZVESTIYA believes that the country's grim economic prospect could be the main reason for such a decision.

"According to V. Krivov, chief of the group of experts to the Russian president, a rapid increase in oil production costs, as a result of which the export of oil, just as that of coal and timber, would become unprofitable, is reckoned to be the main factor which may lead to a further sharp drop in industrial output, decline in the living standards of people and depletion of the import of food. Chernomyrdin could not fail to know about such a prospect".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Ella Pamfilova, minister of the social protection of the population, who tendered her resignation. Pamfilova said in particular that she visualised the possibility of her resignation long before she took a final decision which was made public on January 16.

Pamfilova said the loss of hope that the prime minister and the president would heed Yegor Gaydar's proposals about 'the need to pursue a coordinated policy between the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry, grant an appropriate status to the latter, and to shape a social policy dovetailed with decisions that are made at the macroeconomic level' became the reasons for her final decision to resign.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on ella Pamfilova's resignation.

The newspaper criticises her activities as the minister of social protection. "Pamfilova is known to have gone on leave with a subsequent resignation from the ministerial post. This closely resembles taking to flight. But who will pay the debts to the older people?" the newspaper asks.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on Yegor Gaydar's resignation. The newspaper emphasises that the matter was decided upon by the president, not the prime minister. "The president could not ignore the sentiments of a vast majority of people in Russia who are disgruntled over the results of reforms and who associate the sharp decline in the living standards with Gaydar's name".

"Notwithstanding all his sympathy for Gaydar, Yeltsin had to agree to his resignation."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on housing for servicemen.

"The Housing Problem in the Armed Forces is a Political One" is the headline under which the newspaper carries an article about the servicemen's welfare problems. "It is at unreasonable, to say the least, to allow the army or, at any rate, a large proportion of army personnel, to proceed along the road leading from hopes to despair".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA runs an interview with former deputy speaker Yuriy Voronin.

The newspaper reports that voronin intends to stage a comeback in politics. In the interview, Voronin again recounted the October 3-4 events in Moscow and the role played by politicians who retain their positions in high places now as well. Voronin is of the opinion that "as a result of the September-October crisis, it was democracy, not the legislative branch of power, that turned out to be the loser in Russia".

IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA run carry a photograph of former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy in the Lefortovo prison. The picture was taken by a REUTER photographer on January 23.

"How and why was a foreign reporter allowed to go and see in prison the person whom Russian ones are not allowed even to approach?" IZVESTIYA queries.

Press Review for 27 Jan

LD2701074794 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0725
GMT 27 Jan 94

[*"Press Review"*—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 27 (ITAR-TASS)—Festivities dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the complete liberation of Leningrad from the Nazi siege during the Second World War, hit the headlines of today's Moscow press.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper front-pages a series of articles on this event with the general heading "Feat of the Besieged Leningrad is an Immortal Symbol of Courage and Staunchness".

"True, veterans of the battle of Leningrad and Leningraders who lived through the siege, do not look, to our great shame, like victors decorated with laurel wreaths. The state and society are not very lavish with signs of attention to them," the newspaper continues. "Paying great homage to them, let us be worthy of their feat."

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes about the musical comedy theatre which worked in Leningrad almost during all the 900 days of the city's siege.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper devotes the entire front and a considerable part of the second page to reminiscences of besieged Leningraders as well as to photographs depicting those difficult years.

"Reminiscing the Leningrad siege," writes retired naval captain Leopold Sirotkin, "I ask myself: could we withstand a similar situation today, following all changes of the recent past in our country? I cannot find an unequivocal answer. The situation in our country has changed very much."

The IZVESTIYA writes about a recent trip to the city of Oryol (central Russia) by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The newspaper notes that the premier's trip to Oryol "in close company with main opponents of ousted Yegor GaYdar (former vice-premier) and Boris Fedorov (former finance minister) looked like a political demonstration" against the background of the still uncomplete drama of forming a new cabinet and resolute ousting "antagonists of easy distribution of budget funds".

At the same time, IZVESTIYA continues, the concluding speech by Chernomyrdin at a conference on the revival of central Russia, which took place in Oryol, "threw into confusion the uninitiated, since Chernomyrdin praised the policy pursued by Gaydar and Fedorov ousted from the cabinet".

The same newspaper features Fedorov's interview with IZVESTIYA and the INTERFAX news agency. He points to the absence of sufficient powers to conduct "his own financial policy" as the main reason for his refusal to take the post of finance minister in the renewed cabinet.

The former minister claimed that "it would be impossible to raise production" in the conditions of galloping inflation which is already forecast.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper prints an extract from former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy's book "Collapse of the Power", describing political life in Russia in 1993 and the tragic October events in Moscow.

The newspaper reproduces Rutskoy's photograph at the Lefortovo prison printed in IZVESTIYA on Wednesday.

The same newspaper carries an interview with Aleksandr Gorbovskiy, a high-ranking official from the committee for conventional problems of chemical and biological weapons.

He writes that Russia has not violated any treaties on chemical weapons, adding that it is no less difficult to destroy these weapons than to develop them.

Replying to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Vladimir Kazimirov, special representative of the Russian president on Nagorno-Karabakh, stresses that the main thing now is to prevent internationalisation of the Azeri-Armenian conflict in that region, which has deteriorated over the past few days.

Paper Suggests Moscow Developments Might Suit Clinton*PM2601140594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Jan 94 First Edition p 4*

[Vladimir Nadein article: "Boris Fedorov Says That Strobe Talbott Stabbed Him in the Back"]

[Text] Washington—The U.S. Administration's restrained reaction to the absence of Yegor Gaydar and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov from the new government does not reflect the disappointment felt in the White House and the State Department.

Although some experts here do not absolve Yegor Gaydar from personal blame for the reformists' failure at the parliamentary elections, both Gaydar and Fedorov have become to a large extent symbolic figures for the West. Even their simple replacement by reformists of the same views but with different names would cause alarm to politicians and financiers.

Until the national economy demonstrates to international financial organizations its capacity to get through inflation to stability and prosperity Western countries will continue to hold back from experiments in search of a "special route" in the economy and, most importantly, will continue to hold on to their money.

The series of mutual recriminations which began immediately after the elections with the charge against Boris Yeltsin that he did not throw his authority behind the attacking ranks of Russia's Choice was continued by Jeffrey Sachs' attack on the World Bank and the IMF and a series of reports from Moscow talking about the indignation felt by Boris Fedorov and his colleagues at statements made by Strobe Talbott, the chief coordinator of the current administration's Russian policy.

The nub of the charges leveled by Sachs, until recently an adviser to the Russian Government, is that the World Bank and the IMF approached the needs of the former USSR in a stereotyped way. The entire current leadership must be changed, Sachs states, but the main blame lies with Western politicians, who will shortly spend on defense far more than Russia has required to find its place in the world.

Strobe Talbott's statement about "less shock, more therapy for Russians," which, as he has subsequently explained more than once, merely signified the need for greater attention to be paid to social problems but was in no way an appeal to slow down the pace of economic transformations in Russia, was described by Minister Fedorov as a "stab in the back."

For the time being the administration prefers to say nothing. For the time being Clinton is in no hurry to draw conclusions. And not because it is dangerous to hurry in politics. Since his visit Russia has clearly clearly fallen from the top of the president's agenda. It is perfectly likely that deep down Clinton is pleased with

the turn of events, the changes in Moscow having afforded him the possibility, as it were, not to take resolute actions.

But one can definitely say that if some officials in the new Russian Government have tried to create an unfavorable impression of themselves in the American administration, they have entirely succeeded. A reporter who accompanied Treasury Secretary Bentsen on his trip to Moscow cites comments by Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko indicating the latter's rejection of simple market truths.

To the American president's satisfaction, the situation in Russia has little impact on the overall level of his popularity.

Six months ago Bill Clinton set a record: His popularity during the first year since his election was the lowest for all American presidents since the country began conducting public opinion polls systematically in the thirties.

Now, on the eve of his first State of the Union address to Congress, the White House incumbent can be completely satisfied: 54 percent of poll respondents approve of his administration.

The president still has one problem actually, but this is not seen as too substantial by the electorate: This concerns the Whitewater Development Corporation, where the Clintons' role has not yet been completely clarified. However, when polled, Americans are in no hurry to form a negative image of the president on the basis of hints and vague exposes in the mass media.

Six months ago Clinton suffered setback after setback. After the failure of his job-creation proposals, two abortive attempts to appoint an attorney general, the military's opposition to the administration's intention to allow homosexuals to perform military service, and the sorry \$200-haircut incident at Los Angeles airport the president seemed flat on his back.

But the end of the year brought a series of successful international events, particularly those connected with the creation of free trade zones. The rising American economy and the successful European tour have all brought a triumphant conclusion to the young president's first year.

Clinton's Record 'Rather Impressive'*PM2601170594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Jan 94 First Edition p 4*

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "When the Economy Is Flourishing, Congress Gives a Standing Ovation"]

[Text] Washington—Bill Clinton arrived at the podium in the House of Representatives to deliver his first State of the Union message at the height of his popularity, like

an experienced sportsman who, while making minor slipups on the way, skillfully peaks in time for the crucial competition.

Figures that have just been published show that at the end of his first year Clinton has outstripped even such a revered President as Ronald Reagan.

There is no doubt that the number of those who approve of Clinton's activities in the White House will increase following his well-judged and passionate speech which met with applause, ovations, or whistles of approval on at least 63 occasions. Clinton thanked Congress for all the achievements of the first year of his presidency, which make a rather impressive picture. It was on the legislators—the people who almost wrecked his budget (it was passed by one vote), all but consigned to oblivion the program to change the tax system and reduce the state debt, and furiously resisted restrictions on the use of weapons (the Brady law)—that the President bestowed his special thanks, his final sentence sounding amazingly convincing: "Not once did I use my presidential veto," Clinton said, meaning that the combination of firmness and compromises that characterizes the administration made extreme measures unnecessary.

Economic growth, which some perspicacious experts predicted back in the final months of Bush's presidency, is now a statistical fact. Clinton pointed to production growth, the increasing number of jobs, the low interest rate, and increased consumer confidence. "For the first time since Harry Truman we will have had three consecutive deficit-free years and the dollar will have stayed where it is," the President said, prompting the one of the longest ovations.

Clinton stressed that all this was achieved without raising taxes for the vast majority of the population, and, above all, without placing an extra burden on the backbone of society—the middle class. "Only the very rich, only 1.2 percent of the population, will pay higher taxes; no one else, and that is a fact," the President said.

Noting that many politicians in Washington had recommended him to continue the policy of cutting defense expenditure this year, Clinton said that he had rejected that approach: In the new budget for fiscal 1994-1995 the U.S. armed forces will not receive any less money than in the previous year.

Addressing not so much the legislators as the ordinary people who put him in the White House, Clinton mapped out a tough schedule for the next campaign, on which he is certainly pinning the future of his presidency—a statewide health program.

Kozyrev Addresses Correspondents on Arrival in Beijing

LD2601161994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1339 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpt] Beijing, 26 Jan— Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in China on Wednesday [26 January], starting an official visit that will focus on Russian-Chinese border trade. Kozyrev, whose visit will last until 29 January, is to meet with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Beijing on Thursday.

Moscow regards mutual relations with the PRC as a traditionally high-priority and independent direction of its foreign policy and as an important component part of its general strategy of ensuring national-state interests through partnership with the surrounding world. To a great extent we link cooperation with China with the prospects of fulfilling the unique Euro-Asiatic potential of Russia, the economic upsurge of the rayons of Siberia and the Far East and integration into the economic life of the Asia-Pacific region.

The Russian side values highly the results achieved in recent years of cooperation with China that has been carried out on many levels and is satisfied with the stable and positive development along all paths of bilateral links. The bringing of Russian-Chinese relations on to a higher level—that of constructive partners—accords completely with the national interests of our countries and peoples, the head of the Russian Federation's foreign policy department told ITAR-TASS correspondents at Beijing airport.

The coming talks and meetings in Beijing are expected to be a new step forward on the path of strengthening good-neighborliness and deepening mutual understanding and trust between Russia and the PRC, while the documents signed during the visit will expand the treaty and legal base of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Comments on Relations

LD2701051694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[ITAR-TASS special correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Jan—Relations with China are a priority trend in Russia's foreign policy, as was stated during the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the PRC in December 1992, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed. He was speaking before the start of the Russian-Chinese talks with a large number of people attending the Diaoyutai residence for guests of honor in Beijing.

"We should like to raise Russian-Chinese relations to a qualitatively new level—one of constructive partnership—both in bilateral ties as well as from a regional and an international point of view," Andrey Kozyrev said.

Greeting the Russian minister, Qian Qichen, deputy prime minister of the State Council, PRC minister of foreign affairs, noted "according to the Chinese proverb 'spring is a wise time' and starting something in the

spring means it will be successful." He expressed the conviction that relations between China and Russia would continue to develop in the interests of the two countries in the new year.

Qian Qichen congratulated Andrey Kozyrev on his being confirmed head of the Russian foreign political department.

Signs Documents in Beijing

LD2701050694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0431 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Jan—A ceremony of signing Russian-Chinese documents took place immediately after the talks between the Russian and Chinese foreign ministers at the Diaoyutai residence in Beijing had ended.

In the (Fangfeiuyan) hall Andrey Kozyrev and Qian Qichen signed an intergovernmental agreement on crossing points on the Russian-Chinese border and a protocol on consultations between the Russian and Chinese foreign ministries.

Jiang Zemin To Visit Moscow

LD2701055994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0450 GMT 27 Jan 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Jan—In all probability the visit of PRC President Jiang Zemin to Moscow will take place in the third quarter of this year. As reported today by Galina Sidorova, political aide to the Russian foreign minister at the end of the first round of Russian-Chinese talks today, the second Russian-Chinese summit will be preceded by a trip by Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, to Beijing, as well as by a trip to Moscow by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin made an official visit to Beijing in December 1992. His visit ended the process of complete normalization of relations between the two countries, having opened up extensive possibilities for the establishment of new, good-neighborly and friendly contacts.

First Round of Talks Viewed

LD2701101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing January 27 TASS—Questions of bilateral relations were in the focus of the first round of talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and China, which has just ended here. "Its agenda was so crammed

that the foreign ministers of the two countries had to prolong the talk for almost one hour," said Galina Sidorova, political adviser of the Russian foreign minister.

The ministers stressed that "a progressive and constant exchange of views and visits at summit and high levels would be continued between the two countries. A visit of PRC chairman Jiang Zemin to Moscow is being planned. It will apparently take place in the third quarter of the year. In preparation for a new Russo-Chinese summit, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin will visit Beijing and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will pay a visit to Moscow.

In the course of the negotiations, Sidorova noted, the sides have discussed various aspects of economic and military-technical cooperation between the two countries. Kozyrev stressed Russia's readiness to go over to large-scale ventures while simultaneously continuing the policy of expanding traditional forms of economic relations. For instance, Russia is expected to take part in the construction of the huge "three gorges" hydropower complex in China.

The sides also discussed the possibility of Russia helping China to reconstruct many enterprises, which were built with Soviet aid.

The ministers noted the progress made during the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and confidence-building measures on the border between the two countries. These talks will be continued to try to conclude a corresponding agreement already this year, Sidorova said.

The sides announced their readiness to continue negotiations on border problems. The joint delegation of Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to these talks will be led by Aleksandr Panov, the new Russian deputy foreign minister.

During the discussion of problems linked with the demarcation of the border between the two countries, the ministers pointed to the possibility of joint economic activity in the border districts, including the disputed areas. The sides want a status quo to be observed on the border after its demarcation.

Mutual interest in developing constructive cooperation in the military-technical sphere was expressed in the course of the talks. Kozyrev said that it should be promoted with due account of mutual interests and the observance of corresponding international commitments.

Sidorova noted that the idea of promoting constructive partnership with China, expressed by the Russian minister, "Does not mean that we are allies with China in the direct sense of the term. It implies Moscow's readiness to promote very close interaction with Beijing in matters of mutual concern". Moreover, Russia and China, as two great powers, proceed from the understanding that they

have both national and huge common interests of regional and global character.

In reply to a request of his Chinese counterpart, Kozyrev shared his view with him on the current political situation in Russia, laying stress on the immutability of its foreign policy which "remains presidential".

Kozyrev Has 'Problems' To Discuss With Chinese

PM2701102194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 7

[Andrey Kabannikov report: "Will Kozyrev Play the China Card. On the Russian Foreign Minister's Visit to Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing—The Chinese, it seems, are indeed genuinely happy at the three-day visit by our foreign minister, who arrived here on Wednesday [26 January]. Kozyrev promised to visit Beijing three months ago but was delayed. He was not the only one. The visit by Aleksandr Shokhin, head of the Russian side of the Russian-Chinese Interstate Cooperation Commission, has been postponed four times and now no one knows whether it will take place at all.

Of course, it was our purely internal problems which were to blame for all of this. But Chinese diplomacy, which has recently been making progress in relations with the United States, Europe, and countries in the Asia and Pacific region, was painfully aware of a certain stagnation in dealings with Russia and saw no Russian interlocutors even as high as deputy foreign minister.

However, the two states have things to discuss. It is a little over a year since Boris Yeltsin's visit to China, during which over 20 agreements were signed, the majority of which are not in operation.

Some agreements have brought unexpected results. The accord on visa-free tourist exchange is in itself absolutely normal. But in practice it has transpired that sometimes it is only the tour guide makes it back to China.

Another problem that Kozyrev will probably have to discuss in Beijing is connected with the agreement, now in abeyance, on the construction of a nuclear power station here with Russian assistance. The accord on this was reached a year ago and the Russian side, which is extremely interested in this major order for its now idle "Energomash" plant, promised China a substantial credit for this construction project. Since then the Chinese, who incidentally have an acute need for electric power, have not returned to this topic for a reason which perhaps our foreign minister will try to find out.

Apart from everything else, during Kozyrev's visit to Beijing he is going to read a lecture on the fundamentals of Russia's Asia policy at the Institute of People's Diplomacy. This is of particular interest because there are those who think that Russia does not have such a policy.

Japan Seen Seeking 'Review' of Western Aid to Russia

PM2601165394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Sergey Agafonov report: "In Japan It Is No Longer Considered Necessary To Assist Russia"]

[Text] Tokyo—Citing confidential Foreign Ministry sources, the capital's TOKYO SHIMBUN reports that the Japanese Government has decided to make adjustments in its approach to Russia.

In view of Moscow's clear conservative turn in recent weeks, the departure from the cabinet of key figures committed to reforms, and Viktor Chernomyrdin's statements leaving no doubt of his intention to halt the country's movement toward a market economy, Tokyo intends as a matter of the greatest urgency to adjust its policy of providing economic assistance for the Russian reforms. From a formal viewpoint the economic package of \$1.82 billion in credits for Russia and insurance for trade operations with Russia which Japan had promised remains on the agenda, but in actual fact even this lifeline is being put on ice, so the same source points out, because the change in the political situation in Moscow and the Chernomyrdin government's sharp turn to the right require a commensurate response.

According to the major Japanese newspapers the recent changes in Moscow have unambiguously shifted the Japanese perception of Russia in a negative direction. Fears that the agreements reached during Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October can now be confidently written off are becoming firm convictions. Bilateral relations themselves are being plunged into a new period of uncertainty, the length of which cannot be estimated.

Japanese analysts are more and more frequently comparing Yeltsin's Russia with Hindenburg's Germany, and are rebuking the president for appeasement and other sins. But perhaps the most notable feature is that hints are emerging, tentative as yet, about the need to review Russia's relations with the G-7, the Paris Club, and other common Western structures. So, for example, Japanese Foreign Ministry sources are now actively arguing that it is logical to help the reformers, to meet them halfway on the question of deferring payments on Russian liabilities, and to seek other forms of collaboration. But the logic clearly collapses if Moscow intends changing course and putting the brakes on reforms. Moreover, according to TOKYO SHIMBUN, Japan is inclined to put on the agenda of the forthcoming G-7 meeting in Naples the question of reviewing the whole package of Western economic aid for Russia to take account of the changes in Moscow's political reference points.

You do not have to be a great prophet to divine that there will be a further sharpening of tone if Chernomyrdin really does resort to reintroducing the anti-market model.

Japanese Vessels Enter Territorial Waters Illegally*LD2701094594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 27 Jan 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—Over the past week, Japanese fishing vessels have violated Russian territorial waters about 100 times, the press service of the border troops of the Russian Federation told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. Border troops estimate that infiltrators are using the tactic of entering in groups and conducting constant radar and visual observation of Russian border vessels, leaving the territorial waters when they appear. The smugglers from Japan ignore signals by border guards to stop, including warning shots.

The press service notes that the ships and aircraft of the Russian border troops will take all measures envisaged under the law on the state border of the Russian Federation to protect Russian interests in its territorial waters and economic zone.

DPRK-U.S. Talks on Locating Airmen's Remains*SK2601150394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[Text] DPRK and U.S. delegates are now holding discussions at Panmunjom on locating the remains of airmen who fell to their death from the skies of Korea during the 1950-1953 war.

According to a DPRK statement, the discussions will be held for two days.

Welcoming the fact that Pyongyang has agreed to the discussions, the United States expects that this will contribute to improving relations between the United States and the DPRK.

Neighbors Need Not 'Take Offense' Over Shared Interests*PM2601133794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1*

["Opinion" by correspondent Leonid Timofeyev: "Russia Convinced That New Diplomacy Is Only Old Diplomacy That Is Well and Truly Forgotten"; article is preceded by two quotes attributed to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "CIS and Baltic Countries Are the Region Where Russia's Paramount Vital Interests Are Focused. It Is Also From There That the Main Threats to Those Interests Emanate"; "We Must Not Abandon Those Regions That Have for Centuries Been Spheres of Russian Interests. And We Must Not Be Afraid To Say So"]

[Text] Russia's close neighbors were wrong to take offense at Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement to the effect that the CIS and Baltic countries

are the focus of our vital interests and that the main threats to these interests emanate from there.

Take Tajikistan at least. The internal conflict and its proximity to unstable Afghanistan generate a host of problems for the whole CIS and Russia in particular. Drugs, weapons, the future of the Russian-speaking population, and the economy cause Moscow concern. The Russian leadership has not hidden its commitment to settling the Tajik crisis, as it has repeatedly stated, by organizing dialogue between the Dushanbe authorities and the opposition. Admittedly, according to our information, that country's government is reluctant to enter into contact with its opponents. And for the moment the Russian Federation's 201st Motorized Rifle Division and Russian border outposts are forced to maintain the defenses. After all, there are no longer any guarded borders beyond them.

In the past year alone 350 clashes and attempts at infiltration have been recorded on the Tajik-Afghan border. Some 31 service caps have lain on fresh graves.

A similar picture can be painted as far as producing a more stable internal situation in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is concerned. The latter's border with the PRC has been guarded by everyone. After the latest "demobbing" the Ukrainians and Belarusians went home. The latest draft in Russia produced a tremendous shortfall, and the Kazakhs do not have the forces or the experience to cover many hundreds of kilometers. So the border has come unlocked, and hordes of people from adjacent states are crossing it to enter the wide expanses of the CIS. And not all the "boys" involved have Chinese blouses and slippers in their rucksacks. It is not only Russia that is the destination of this stream of people, but also the west of Europe, including the Baltic countries.

There is another aspect to the border problem. The republics of the former USSR have become autonomous and sovereign, and no one is encroaching on their sovereignty. But Ashgabat, Baku, and Tashkent are using a simplified, problem-free procedure to issue Iranians and Turks with visas. Are there Islamic fundamentalists among them? Virtually nothing prevents them then taking a ticket to Moscow.

Take another of the "hot spots"—Nagorno-Karabakh, over which a war is blazing between Azerbaijan and Armenia. What makes Russia take vigorous action in that region? Economic interests on the one hand. And the refugees on the other. Every family must be provided with housing and a means of existence. We are equally alarmed by the influx of mercenaries into the conflict zone from Iran, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and even Russia.

There are irregularities in Russia's relations with Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, and the Baltic countries. In some places they are due to internal conflicts. And in others, like Latvia or Estonia, the rights of the Russian-speaking population are being flouted, as even international organizations do not deny.

The Russian diplomatic service says that militarily no one poses a threat to us. Sooner or later the question of our troops' withdrawal will also have been resolved. There is no intention of providing Russia's new borders with technical reinforcement. And not just because the state cannot financially stretch to it. The main point is that a security strip and barbed wire cast doubt on the idea of a single economic area and economic union. And who, apart from ourselves, including the Baltic, needs the goods produced at the former Union departments' enterprises?

It looks as though the interests and threats that Kozyrev mentioned to his ambassadors are often shared.

Missile Detargeting, Continuing Danger From Ukraine Eyed

PM2601124594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[Military observer Vladimir Klimov "Topical Commentary:" "Where Are Missiles Targeted?"]

[Excerpts] Hamlet's question "To be or not to be?" remains the main question of the day. I was surely not the only one to think so on learning that the Russian and U.S. presidents had announced the detargeting of strategic missiles in the Moscow declaration.

"For the first time since the beginning of the nuclear era our countries have stopped targeting missiles at each other," Major General Anatoliy Svetikov, deputy chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces Staff Directorate, believes. [passage omitted]

Yet the past is still with us. The following questions have arisen from there, from the alarming past: Is the retargeting of missiles and their return to their former condition possible and how long would this take? Let us allow the specialist, Maj. Gen. Svetikov, to speak:

"The process of introducing and scrapping missions operates on many levels and planes. It varies for different categories and types of missile. The scrapping of missions will depend on the principle chosen by the two countries' presidents. As regards resumption, I can say that as long as a missile is on alert status there is always a possibility of returning everything to its former place. How long will this take? Long enough, although the times vary for different categories and types of missile. I do not intend to talk about time periods but have singled out the most important thing: the implementation of the presidents' decision sharply reduces the threshold of a nuclear strike."

How nice it would be to put a period after such an optimistic conclusion and to exclaim joyfully "The End!" Alas, there is still a long way to go before the end; dreams about a complete ban on nuclear weapons still remain dreams. The nuclear danger comes not from across the ocean but from Russia's doorstep—Ukraine.

Its president pledged to transport nuclear warheads to us for dismantling. But some of them are already in a critical condition.

Yet again we have to talk of the unreasonableness of certain vociferous politicians. Specialists, foreseeing the complexities with missiles, made an agreement about centralized maintenance of them. But some Ukrainian deputies saw Moscow's evil hand in this too. The agreements, which did not need parliament's ratification, were blocked by it. We, they said, will overcome.

But how can routine inspection and maintenance work and the maintenance of missile complexes be undertaken when there are not enough resources or specialists? The result of the deputies' veto is the alarming technical condition of missiles in Ukraine. Following inspection, warheads were removed from some missile launchers which had simply become dangerous.

Hamlet's question has now crystallized over these missile silos. How will people answer it?

Details on Yeltsin's 3 Feb Visit to Tbilisi Reported

LD2701121194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin will stay one day, February 3, in Tbilisi, informed sources in that city told Interfax. The visit is said to have been originally scheduled for February 3 or 4 and have a one day program.

This includes a tete-a-tete with the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, negotiations between the delegations, a meeting of the Russian president with Georgian intellectuals and an official ceremony of signing Russo-Georgian documents, notably the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

Final touches are said to be put on about 20 bilateral documents. Only those that are finalized will be signed.

Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachyov, head of the Russian Army Group in Transcaucasia press office, told Interfax that President Yeltsin would be accompanied by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who would sign with Georgian military officials a treaty on the status of Russian troops in Georgia and numerous other documents on military cooperation between the two countries.

Adamishin Visits Rome in Preparation for Chernomyrdin Visit

LD2701101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Bukalov]

[Text] Rome January 27 TASS—First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Anatoliy Adamishin, who arrived here to prepare the ground for Russian Premier Viktor

Chernomyrdin's official visit to Italy, has met Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta to discuss key political, financial and economic problems included in the agenda of the forthcoming talks. The sides also exchanged views on several international problems, including the settlement of conflicts in different parts of the world.

Adamishin told ITAR-TASS that the Russian prime minister's visit to Italy was initiated by the Italian side and constituted an important stage in the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. "1994 promises to be a rather intensive year in Russo-Italian relations. A G-7 meeting is to be held at Naples in July. The Italian side, as regular G-7 chairman, has reaffirmed the invitation extended to President Boris Yeltsin to attend the meeting," Adamishin said.

"Our countries are closely cooperating within the frameworks of multilateral diplomacy. Russia is ready to help Italy in its efforts as chairman of the CSCE. There are many points of contact in the policies of the two countries," he added.

Adamishin said that the policies of the two countries in such a painful matter as the Yugoslavian conflict had much in common. "The Italians, like ourselves, approach very guardedly the ideas of resorting to forcible actions in this neighbouring region," Adamishin stated.

"Political cooperation is being continued in bilateral relations, too. Italy is our important partner and a treaty on friendship and cooperation is now in the making. It will be signed soon. Many agreements, signed between Italy and the Soviet Union, have been reconcluded.

"The sides have discussed their economic relations. Italy has granted Russia second largest credits after the German loans. This 'generosity' of our Italian partners, frankly speaking, has created definite difficulties in servicing the credits. After all, they have to be repaid. But even in this delicate sphere we were able to find mutual understanding and common language," Adamishin noted. "The level of cooperation in the economic sphere is very high. For instance, the recently signed agreement between 'Gazprom' and the Eni group is a vivid example of the common effort to help improve the trade balance between the two countries, to develop industrial and technological cooperation.

"The Russian side expects Chernomyrdin's official visit to Italy to be successful and to serve the interests of the peoples of both countries," Adamishin stressed.

Chernomyrdin Leaves for Italy

*LD2701071294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656
GMT 27 Jan 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin departed for Italy this morning for a two-day official visit.

According to the visit programme, Chernomyrdin will meet President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Premier Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. It is expected that the Russian premier will be received by Pope John Paul II and will have meetings with members of the Italian business community.

At the Russian-Italian talks, the sides plan to discuss the entire range of bilateral relations, implementation of earlier understandings between the two countries, Russia-Italian partnership in international relations, the formation of new mechanisms for a pan-European system of security and cooperation through fuller use of the potential of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

It is expected that the intergovernment talks will result in signing a statement by the two governments, an intergovernment agreement on the status of burial places of Russian servicemen and civilians in Italy and Italian servicemen in Russia, who died during the Second World War as well as a memorandum of intent concerning an agreement on encouragement and protection of capital investments.

Belgian Defense Minister Visits Missile Base

*LD2601195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2217
GMT 26 Jan 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Belgian Defence Minister Leo Delcroix has become the first NATO official to visit a once-secret Russian missile base in Bologoye located between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Accompanied by his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev, Delcroix toured the base, once off-limits for foreigners, to see the most advanced Russian strategic missiles and other military hardware.

The trip was part of Delcroix's two-day visit to Russia, following the signing of a cooperation agreement by president Boris Yeltsin and Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene in Brussels in December 1993 to boost military contacts between the two countries.

Delcroix's talks with Grachev centered around international security in the wake of the adoption of the Partnership for Peace programme proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and the historic U.S.-Russian-Ukrainian nuclear deal signed in Moscow earlier this month.

Special attention was paid to European security, nuclear non-proliferation and the participation of both countries in U.N. peace-keeping operations in Yugoslavia.

UK's Hogg Stresses Importance of Economic Reform Policy

*LD2701102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856
GMT 27 Jan 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Sisnev and Viktor Solomin]

[Text] London January 27 TASS—Russia must continue its policy of economic reforms and go ahead on this path as fast as it can, British Secretary of state for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg said in an interview with ITAR-TASS. A speedy reorganization of the Russian industry and further development of the privatization process are the most important tasks at the moment. This is a question of vital importance. There will be no investments without privatization, and without privatization it will be impossible to transform the Russian industry, make it more competitive and give it an opportunity to win new markets, the foreign secretary emphasised. Difficulties, which the Russian economy is facing, are not caused by reforms, they are a result of the policy pursued in the past years, he said.

Assessing the situation in Russia, Douglas Hogg said that he would be concerned if the pace of reforms in Russia slows down, if signs of "weakening of the political will" to conduct reforms appear which will endanger this whole process.

Speaking about the specific aid which the West could provide to Russia, Hogg emphasised that first of all it is necessary to open western markets to Russian exports. This is not an easy task, he noted, taking into consideration that a large part of the products, which Russian enterprises make for export, is already available in plenty on the western market. But trade and opening of markets are important conditions for the economic development of Russia, he said.

Speaking of activities of the "know-how" fund which was set up by the British Government to provide technical assistance in the sphere of economic reforms to East European countries, including Russia, Great Britain was the first country to begin providing such aid, Hogg emphasised. We concentrated our activities in such key spheres as finance system, employment, support of small business, production and distribution of food products, power generation and a number of other spheres, he said.

The secretary of state for foreign affairs said that the total financial resources of the fund, meant to provide assistance to Russia, were doubled to reach 120 million pound sterling in 1993.

The experience of the past years has shown and we are glad to ascertain that the "know-how" fund is an effective body to provide aid to Russian reforms. Unlike certain other programmes it is not so bureaucratic, and more capable of quickly reacting to individual demands, Douglas Hogg said.

General Burlakov on Problems Facing Pullout From Germany

MK2601142094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Polotskiy, RIA own correspondent in Berlin, "exclusive" NG report under the "Army" rubric: "Troop Pullout Proceeds as Scheduled. General Burlakov's Press Conference"]

[Text] "The former political leaders of the ex-USSR—Gorbachev and Shevardnadze—signed in October 1990 understandings on pulling out the Western Group of Forces [WGF] without giving a thought or consideration to the future of tens of thousands of families of officers who had no apartments, and who are to return to their country," Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the WGF, stated today in a press conference in Berlin.

He pointed out that despite the difficulties involved in pulling out history's biggest group of forces located on the territory of a foreign country to their homeland in a short time frame, this "uniquely complex" task is being tackled according to an agreed schedule. To date, 90 percent of servicemen, military hardware, and supplies have been withdrawn to Russia.

The main problem, according to the WGF chief commander, remains as before a considerable—up to 40 percent—lag in the construction of housing for WGF servicemen in Russia behind the rate of the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany.

The commander in chief did not hide his dissatisfaction with and great anxiety at the fact that the total number of apartments in Russia for WGF servicemen yet to be completed is 47,000. That includes, in almost equal shares, the housing that was supposed to be constructed with 7.8 billion Deutsche marks (25,000 apartments) and with the money provided from the budget of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry (22,000 apartments).

Another problem is the rising crime around WGF garrisons in Germany: Attacks on Russian servicemen by emigrants "of all stripes," as the chief commander put it, and from German neo-Nazi hooligans, have not stopped.

Gorbachev on Partnership for Peace, Ukraine

LD2601171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 26 Jan 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The NATO concept "Partnership for Peace" is a "camouflage," INTERFAX was told by ex-president of the former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev.

He believes that NATO is attempting to somehow broaden its activities and bring them closer to Russia's borders. Those who think that this may help develop relations and establish calm are wrong. On the contrary, the seeds of feud and suspicion have already been sown, believes Gorbachev.

He said that first the issue on membership in NATO by more countries would be raised in the near future. But seeing Russia's negative approach to the prospect, the North Atlantic Alliance has invented the initiative "Partnership for Peace". It was obvious that NATO had not given up the idea of expanding the bloc, he said.

Gorbachev said that the United States suspected Russia of threatening its neighbors. "This is an insult for Russians," said the ex-president.

He said that if NATO really wanted to tackle European problems, the bloc's structure should have representations of all countries on the continent.

Gorbachev believes that the Russian president's and the government's positive response to the adoption of the partnership concept at the recent NATO summit in Brussels indicates that Moscow's foreign and domestic policies lacked consistency.

Speaking about the problem of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the ex-president disagreed with the idea that Ukrainians lacked a grasp of reality. "They understand everything well," he said, "and will certainly comply with the provisions of the START-I treaty." They are bargaining to make up for the expenditures in terms of the nuclear arms scrapping, said Gorbachev.

He believes that in the nuclear bargain everyone benefits, the Americans most of all. Their president has shown that he can add pressure on Ukraine, after which Ukraine signed the treaty. The Americans do not miss such chances.

Gorbachev said that Russia will never agree to play the role of a "younger brother." "Russia," he said, "is a great power and will remain such. One must do business with it on equal terms, even though today we have temporary difficulties," he said.

Gorbachev voiced satisfaction with the fact that during his visit to Russia Bill Clinton spoke about the U.S. attitude to Russia as an equal partner and that he recognizes its role. "Thank God, this is so. Earlier I did not feel such a categorical position on the part of our American partners," said Gorbachev.

EC 'Pressure' Seen Jeopardizing Military Housing Deal

PM2601130394 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Yuriy Gladkevich report under the rubric "Housing for the Army": "House Warming Parties in Torzhok"]

[Text] Around 50 military aviators and their families are this week giving housewarming parties in Torzhok (Tver Oblast). This is the result of a contract concluded in 1992 between the Russian "Konversiya-Zhilye" concern and the German firm "Buk Inpar" [name as transliterated].

Under this contract, implementation of which began in summer 1993, residential settlements for servicemen withdrawn from Germany and without accommodations are to be erected in Torzhok, Siverskaya, and Garbolovo by the end of the first quarter of this year. The contract overall is scheduled to continue through 1995 and is based on credits totaling 550 million Marks [DM] granted by German banks and guaranteed by the Russian Government. Ultimately Russian military men without accommodations should

receive more than 7,000 apartments with a total area of more than 400,000 square meters.

More than 20 apartment blocks have been assembled in Torzhok since August; each block has 18 or 16 apartments. Such rapid construction is possible because the blocks are assembled from modular constructions produced in Pinnow (Germany), where they are furnished with all the materials necessary for house building. They are delivered to the aforementioned regions, where Russian Federation Defense Ministry construction organizations and the concern itself assemble the buildings.

"Today we have 320 servicemen without apartments," unit commander Major General of Aviation Boris Vorobyev says. "The 300-apartment camp which is being erected here will enable us to provide virtually all of them with housing by the spring. True, the process of withdrawing troops from the Western Group of Forces is continuing and new servicemen are arriving in need of apartments. So we are very much counting on the continuation of Russian-German cooperation."

Unfortunately these hopes may not be justified. At the moment the implementation of the first part of the construction program is being completed—its construction has cost DM117 million, but that is only a part of the credits needed. The German side is currently under strong pressure, according to one of the leaders of "Buk Inpar," Hans Wirtz. The idea of changing the terms of the credit agreement has gained currency in the European Community, and that could effectively jeopardize the program. If it happens, Russia will have obtained 6,000 apartments short of the stipulated number, and the Germans will lose around 150,000 jobs created thanks to this program.

At the same time, continuing the program in the form projected by "Konversiya-zhilye" and "Buk Inpar" on the basis of the second tranche of credits would enable the production of modules to be launched in Russia itself. Some of the money could be assigned to organizing this production process at the Izhora plant, which is not experiencing the best of times. The use of mainly local raw materials and fabrics would enable the factory cost of each square meter of housing to be reduced by 40 percent without any deterioration in quality, and, consequently, allow the construction of an additional 30,000 square meters, to fulfill the entire program in good time.

The problem of eliminating homelessness in the Army is acute nowadays, and the possibilities of funding housing construction from the state budget are extremely limited. In these conditions we would like any possibility for nonbudget funding of housing construction for the military to be exploited 100 percent, and for more and more partners to be involved in this work.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Dubinin Acting Finance Minister

LD2601182894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed decrees dismissing Boris Fedorov as finance minister upon his request and naming Fedorov's first deputy Sergey Dubinin Russia's acting finance minister, the press service of the president reported on Wednesday.

Fedorov Recounts Meeting With Yeltsin

LD2601162794 Moscow Ostankino Television First
Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Jan 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] After his meeting with the president today, the former Minister of Finance [Boris Fedorov] gave a special interview for Ostankino's "Novosti" program:

[Begin Fedorov recording] First, I did not submit my resignation. I simply did not accept the invitation to join the reorganized Cabinet. I did not submit a resignation, but I refused to accept the invitation. The president repeated his offer to me once again. I cited the same arguments, saying that when policies are being changed, policies which were repeatedly spelled out in government documents...[pauses] We were aiming for 60-80 percent annual inflation at the end of the year. But now they are proposing 300 percent. This is a change of policy. So, I cannot participate in this.

If people who are manifestly opposed to the government, opposed to the policy which we pursued in 1993—a policy which produced substantial results—are brought into the government, this is the premier's and the president's prerogative. But they tell me that there is no reason to remove Gerashchenko, for instance. This means that he is right and I am wrong. So, my choice is a very simple one.

I respect the premier's choice in forming the government. He is entitled to choose the government he wants. But, as a free man, I am also entitled to determine my own place in this structure. [end recording]

Explains Rejection of Post

PM2601183594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Jan 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Vasily Kononenko report incorporating interview with former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov; place, date not given: "Boris Fedorov Still Refuses To Join the Government"]

[Text] The meeting between Boris Fedorov and President Boris Yeltsin, which has been the subject of so much conjecture in recent days, was finally held in the

morning of 26 January—the two men discussed whether Fedorov would join the government and on what terms. As was expected, the meeting was held behind closed doors.

Boris Fedorov left the president just 15 minutes later. Some 30 minutes after that, Boris Fedorov gave an exclusive interview to IZVESTIYA and INTERFAX correspondents. But first of all he suggested that we study the statement he had formulated as soon as he arrived back from the Kremlin.

"My position (refusal to join the government) has nothing to do with personal reasons," the document says. "It cannot be right to include in the cabinet or to retain in their previous jobs people who have caused colossal economic and political damage to the state, people who are the main and overt opponents of the reforms policy. I cannot agree with the policy turnaround which was recently formulated by the premier and is being implemented in practice. This includes the refusal to combat inflation; the intention to increase emission by at least 60 percent in relation to the plan in the first quarter alone; and the predominance in the cabinet of the lifeless and ignorant ideology of the State Planning Committee and the red economic managers. 'Ukrainianization' has crossed the Russian border.

"At the same time it is still not too late to halt the slide. I appeal to the president: Boris Nikolayevich! An economic coup is taking place in the country, a backward slide, you are our only hope. The issue here is not just Fedorov, who is always ready to return and fight for Russian interests to the bitter end; the issue is the future of the country which is being decided right now, as we speak. At the same time nobody, I hope, has any illusions that the economy is separate from politics."

[Kononenko] Boris Grigoryevich, how did your meeting with the president go?

[Fedorov] The president confirmed his offer of the post of finance minister, saying that he trusts me and has no complaints about my performance, and stressing that the formation of a government is a lengthy process and nobody in the government lasts forever, including Gerashchenko. But since the terms for joining the government were the same as before, I refused, saying that I could not work with political enemies.

[Kononenko] Who do you mean?

[Fedorov] Gerashchenko primarily. I am not particularly concerned about Zaverukha. He is just the kolkhoz lobby's spokesman. The main reason for my refusing a portfolio in the government as it presently stands is that I did not have sufficient powers to implement my financial policy. The president disagreed with my arguments, saying: "Do not drift away." I do not intend to drift away. I will not leave the country. I will work in the State Duma.

[Kononenko] What is your opinion—why did the expected compromise over your appointment not materialize?

[Fedorov] As premier, V. Chernomyrdin is entitled to form his team. And all the indications are that the president has not foisted his will on him. I have not spoken with the premier since last Saturday [22 January].

[Kononenko] So V. Chernomyrdin needs V. Gerashchenko more than he needs B. Fedorov?

[Fedorov] It would seem so. And this shows that an economic coup is taking place in the country.

[Kononenko] In your view, where is all this leading?

[Fedorov] All government statements forecast inflation. This will mean a fall in the population's living standards. At a time when such enormous rates of inflation are already being forecast, there is no way production will pick up. Without a doubt, isolationism will gather strength and attempts to peg the ruble exchange rate to other foreign currencies will get nowhere. The present government has far fewer administrative levers than former Premier Ryzhkov had at his disposal. We will see the bitter fruits for real in May or June, and social tension will increase sharply by the fall.

[Kononenko] Is it possible that V. Shcherbakov will fill the finance minister's post?

[Fedorov] I believe this will be ruled out since he is not a financier. He does not have his own program. I think they will opt for the gentler scenario of appointing S. Dubinin, my first deputy.

If I am elected to any organ in the State Duma, I will work there, but generally speaking we need a "shadow cabinet of ministers" which will monitor the government's actions and put forward its own ideas for resolving state problems. Of course, the economy cannot be extricated from crisis by financial policy alone, long-term work in other spheres also needs to be done. But in order for this to happen, we need a new Cabinet of Ministers since the present government is amorphous and has been unable to refrain from ruining the budget, B. Fedorov stressed in conclusion.

Fedorov Airs Views on Political, Economic Problems

LD2601195794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Interview with Boris Grigoryevich Fedorov by correspondent Nikolay Svanidze in an office in Moscow on 26 January; from the "Details" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Svanidze] Boris Grigoryevich, today you spoke with the president. Did he accept your resignation or did he accept your conditions? How did your conversation actually finish?

[Fedorov] I repeat once again—I have never resigned and I am not going to do so. I have not accepted the invitation to take a certain post in the cabinet which is being reorganized—I mean the post of finance minister. The president confirmed this invitation and I, of course, did not accept it. I tried to explain my position to the president. He regretted that I did not accept this proposal. He advised me not to go away too far.

[Svanidze] Are you actually fulfilling the duties of the finance minister at the present moment?

[Fedorov] No, I am not. I have already signed an order. The order has not been yet formally issued, so I am still a minister. But I signed the order yesterday that my first deputy is to fulfill my duties.

[Svanidze] Dubinin?

[Fedorov] Yes.

[Svanidze] Boris Grigoryevich, you said in your statement that the country is rolling away and there is an economic coup in the country. What do you mean?

[Fedorov] I mean that if the government's program had some certain guiding lines, some certain methods of economic policy and instruments during the past two years and suddenly this direction has been changed—instead of 3-5 percent inflation there will be 8-9 percent, although I could guarantee that in the present atmosphere, even 20 percent would appear to be a good result—if we are told that economic romanticism has now gone and some non-monetary methods will be used and there will be some other policy, this means a change of policy [sentence as heard]. But I was invited by the president to carry out a quite definite, specific policy directed at fighting inflation and creating a normal market economy in our country. I worked on this for a year.

[Svanidze] You say that at the moment there are fundamental and open opponents of the policy of reforms in the government. Whom do you have in mind?

[Fedorov] The government is roughly the same as it was before, only the addresses, so to speak, of the people have changed. Clearly, that was the task in mind. You realize that even before the reorganization there was no majority of reformers in the government. They were in the minority, but there was an opportunity, at least, to carry out a certain policy. There was confidence in the premier. As soon as the premier changes course—which he has spoken about—naturally the status, say, of the minister of finance is reduced and the general correlation of forces in the government changes. In other words, naturally, to pursue the same course as before is extremely difficult. Therefore, if what the western press calls the worst central banker in the world—Gerashchenko—remains in the post of chairman of the Central Bank, then naturally, it becomes impossible to pursue a civilized normal financial monetary-credit policy. It is natural that those positions which Deputy

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Aleksandr Nikolayevich Zveryukha put forward were also fundamentally at variance from my own views and with those tasks which were set out in the program, and his presence in an office which was higher than the minister of finance, this also naturally makes this work very, very difficult, or rather, impossible.

[Svanidze] One must suppose that you did not hide these views from the president, and what was his reaction to them?

[Fedorov] I did not hide my views—I never conceal my point of view. The president said that there was no need to hurry, that there might be changes, and that Gerashchenko, too, in principle, of course, was not going to be there for ever. He reaffirmed that he was opposed to changing the course.

[Svanidze] What is your prediction for inflation by the end of the year?

[Fedorov] As always, I gave my predictions in good time, way back in December—a Christmas prediction, so to speak—where I spoke about it increasing 20-fold, 2,000 percent, a rate of 10,000, then I defined it a little more precisely at something like a 12,000-fold drop in real per-capita incomes. There would still be a fall in production and capital investments and a devaluation of the savings of the population. In other words, I do not foresee any area where the indices will be any better than they were in 1993. On the contrary, we are getting close to going the same way as Ukraine.

[Svanidze] What do you intend to do now?

[Fedorov] Well, I'm a member of the Duma, and I intend to work there.

[Svanidze] In other words, you will move from a financier and an economist to becoming a professional politician?

[Fedorov] Well, you know, a minister, if he is a real minister, is also a professional politician. If he is just a cashier who dishes out cash then yes, of course, he is purely a technocrat. A technocrat has nothing to do with politics. I have pursued a policy and I have certain convictions that I will continue to uphold.

Economists React to Fedorov Resignation

LD2601151594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1420 GMT on 26 January in the "Panorama" program carries a report on reactions to the resignation of Russian Federation Finance Minister Boris Fedorov.

Petr Filipov, head of the Russian Federation president's social policy analysis center, says that irrespective of various reform pledges made by Viktor Chernomyrdin and his deputy Soskovets, what counts is their financial policy. He believes that they will abandon Fedorov's

strict controls over credits and reintroduce subsidies to unprofitable industry to appease voters. In his words, "the resignation of Finance Minister Boris Fedorov from the Russian Government will undoubtedly complicate our advancement along the path of economic reforms."

Economist Pavel Bunich believes that the government decided to change the course of reforms even before Fedorov's resignation and thinks that some degree of adjustment is indeed necessary. However, he voices concern that the government's determination to change the course of reforms may go too far. He believes that too many old-timers who were in positions of authority during Ryzhkov's and Pavlov's time are surrounding the government and there is a danger that they could try to reverse the reforms.

Resignation of Social Minister Not Accepted

LD2601162194 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1539 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow, 26 January—A meeting took place today between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ella Pamfilova, minister of social protection of the population.

The president's conversation with the minister was connected with her recent statement that she refused to enter the new government.

The minister's office stated that Ella Pamfilova's resignation had not yet been accepted and officially she is on leave. As for the meeting that has taken place, the participants did not reach agreement on conditions for Ella Pamfilova to enter the restructured government.

Shumeyko: Reshuffle Strengthens Yeltsin's Position

LD2601164094 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1354 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, the Chairman of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, said the election of the new legislature and the reorganization of the government had strengthened the president's positions.

He said to reporters on Wednesday that Yegor Gaydar's resignation as first deputy premier had not ended his political career. "We'll see him working in the Russian government some time in the future," Shumeyko said.

He rejected the suggestion that Gaydar's resignation meant an end to the economic reforms. "Only Gaydar, Fedorov and Shumeyko have left the government," the rest of its members remaining in office, Shumeyko said.

He said the recent reorganization had made the government more compact and potentially more efficient. "I hope this government stays in office until the new

presidential election, prior to which it has to resign under the Constitution," he said.

He did not rule out that the Russia's Choice bloc, headed by Gaydar, would come to be in opposition to the Chernomyrdin government. But this would only be clear after the government approved proposed amendments to its economic policy, he said.

Shumeyko said the resignation of Gaydar and Fedorov would not affect Russia's relations with its Western partners. But Russia is "a powerful sovereign state, which will not allow anyone to lecture it," he said.

Denies Changes in Government Dramatic

LD2601223094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 26 January—Vladimir Shumeyko, Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, sees nothing dramatic in the changes in the composition of the government and believes that they will not affect the course of radical reforms. He told journalists this today.

One should not speak about a "new cabinet", Vladimir Shumeyko believes. "It's the same government, only minus Gaydar, Fedorov, and Shumeyko", he said. As a result of the reshuffle, the government "has become more compact and has started to address more the tasks facing the executive," and "presidential power has become more solid," Shumeyko is convinced.

He categorically denies that the new composition of the cabinet is the outcome of a difficult compromise between the government, which favours a continuation of the radical reforms, and the premier, who is insisting on a correction of the course. "All the radical reforms have been set out in the government's plan of action for 1993-1995. It was adopted jointly with the president and all the corrections of the course were fully agreed with him".

An extended session of the government will take place in February, which will be attended by the president and the heads of administration, of executive power, and the components of the Federation, which will sum up the results of 1993 and discuss tasks for this year. Some kind of correction of the course is inevitable at this session, Shumeyko said. But "no one intends to tamper with the reforms based on the removal from or arrival of anyone into the government."

The speaker of the upper chamber believes the government's first task at the present stage to be measures to support the country's producers. "The commodity market is 75 percent full, and one must talk about developing our industry and our agriculture, and it is here where the main corrections of the cabinet's moves must be".

Regarding the work of parliament, Vladimir Shumeyko noted that at the moment there was nothing to indicate that there would not be any cooperation between the two chambers or that the work of the State Duma would not be constructive. He reaffirmed that the Federation Council, according to the Constitution, has legislative initiative and may in extreme cases adopt laws independently. "Nevertheless, we must avoid such extremes", he added.

The speaker said that one of the main issues facing the parliamentarians was the adoption of the Russian state budget for 1994.

Next Monday the session of the Federation Council plans to discuss the question of the Russian socio-economic situation and Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin will present a report. "Such preliminary counsel with the members of the Federation Council will, I believe, influence the type of budget which the government will present to the Duma, and we will be able to adopt it much quicker".

Deputy Prime Minister Says Reforms To Continue

LD2601131394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Russian Government will continue to pursue a course of reforms, says Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha. According to him, the replacement of individual members of the Cabinet of Ministers does not in any way signify a replacement of government policy, because it is determined personally by President Boris Yeltsin. Replying to a question from journalists on whether the present composition of the government was a coalition one, the deputy prime minister confirmed this. At the same time, he pointed out that previously, too, there were differing points of view on topical problems among members of the government, but nevertheless they succeeded in working out a common line. Aleksandr Zaveryukha gave it to be understood that the government reshuffle had been necessary after the recent Federal Assembly elections at which a considerable proportion of the electorate had come out against the shock therapy methods and had voted for representatives of the opposition.

Gaydar Discusses Economy, Departure From Government

LD2601215594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1845 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Interview with Yegor Timurovich Gaydar by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your forecast for the economic development of the country for, at any rate, the next six months?

[Gaydar] I do not think that the newly formed government will be so unwise as to completely destabilize the financial and monetary situation over the next few months. Therefore, I do not fear an imminent economic catastrophe with hyperinflation and collapse of the levers of market control of the economy. I know my colleagues to be quite cautious people and I think that they are now to a very great extent concerned not to allow events to develop in that way.

But there is something else which I greatly fear. I fear constant fluctuations in economic policy, the adoption of contradictory decisions, the government undertaking financial obligations, under the influence of various lobbying structures, which will prove to be impractical, the constant creation of financial crises, and rates of inflation rising and slightly falling around a level of 20-25 percent per month. That is, to put it briefly, the reappearance of that situation which is neither one thing nor the other in which market instruments are not totally destroyed but cannot work in a way conducive to economic development—the preservation of that extremely unpleasant and unstable situation between a normal planned economy and a normal stable market economy which continues to exist in Russia and which costs us dear in social and economic terms.

[Correspondent] Yegor Timurovich, these fluctuations which are indeed very tiring and annoying to the population have existed for a long time, for many months. They existed when you were in the government, also. Why have you decided to depart, so definitely to depart, precisely now?

[Gaydar] Indeed, the policy which has been conducted in Russia was rather integrated and consistent during the first half of 1992, the first half-year of the work of our government. Afterwards the policy was always a compromise one, it was always formed under the influence of various groups, and we continued to conduct this policy, among other reasons because we wanted to make the changes irreversible, we wanted to move market regulation forwards as far as possible into the tissue of Russia's real economic life.

Over the past year and a half in the work of the government and the organs of Russian power there was a fight between two different tendencies. On the surface it was manifested as a combat between inflationists and supporters of financial stabilization, between those who considered that the main thing was to halt the rise in prices and those who believed that it is possible in some way to raise the volume of production when there is galloping inflation.

But I think that the main thing was something else, the question of the role of the state in Russian society. Our policy has always been oriented towards an economical, small, modest state where officials are few, where they do not enjoy too many rights as far as personal allocation of resources is concerned, and where their work is strictly supervised by the law. Another line envisaged a large,

plentiful state which interferes extensively in economic life, where officials have broad opportunities to take personal decisions—for example, to grant credits on preferential terms, subsidies, quotas, licenses—in a word, to do things at their discretion. We allocate enormous credits on preferential terms to agriculture, we spend crazy amounts of money—even now, after preferential crediting has been abolished—on subsidizing interest payments for the credits granted in 1993, and in the meantime this money goes to a large extent, not into agriculture but to the currency exchange, on hard currency speculation. This is what it is all about.

Well, it recently became clear to me lately that we cannot consistently defend our viewpoint any longer—for instance, decisions such as that on the construction of a parliamentary center worth sums of money simply incomparable with the amounts allocated to many of the most important branches of the economy—with this money we could solve the problem of the dumping of liquid radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean 20 times over; or take the decision on setting up the ruble zone with Belarus—this is a manifestation of the policy chosen, of a certain turn in economic policy. The blueprints for a large, plentiful, and expensive state have already been clearly laid out. This is unacceptable to me on principle, I simply do not think that this is for the good of Russia; therefore, I had to leave.

[Correspondent] Yegor Timurovich, if we are talking in terms of huge amounts of money spent on preferential credits and so on, does this not turn out to be one of the main sources of inflation, and not at all of developing production etc?

[Gaydar] Of course, preferential credits were one of the major sources of inflation in 1992-93.

The money that we allocated to these needs cannot really be compared with much else. There's nothing in Russia with which to compare it, apart from defense expenditure.

[Correspondent] But Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] has just said that there will be no more handouts and that easy credit will be ended. As far as I know, it was ended precisely when you came into the government in September.

[Gaydar] That's quite right.

[Interviewer] Right, so there will be no more easy handouts, and so on. Admittedly, it is necessary to return debts to the agro-industrial and military-industrial complex and elsewhere, and, at the same time, it is necessary to boost production. Is it realistic to combine these aims?

[Gaydar] Well, it seems to me that it's extremely hard to do. The problem of the state's debts is primarily a problem of inability to precisely match up one's possibilities and requirements. When people talk of economic romanticism or financial romanticism, that's a rather strange term to me. After all, if romanticism is a clear-cut

desire to live according to one's means, then apracticism [apraktitsizm] is the wish to handle non-existent money. So this somewhat alters my traditional approach to the use of these terms. Perhaps you will excuse me for making use of a character who is traditional in Russian culture. Professor Preobrazhenskiy [a character in Bulgakov's play "A Dog's Heart"] used to point out that, if one regularly missed the toilet, the toilet would be a shambles. A financial shambles is simply the result of the constant adoption of decisions that are not backed by real sources of finance. Until such decisions are taken by the government and legislative bodies, we will still have a shambles in Russian finances, our ruble will be weak, and the state will constantly seek to justify itself to one group after another for having debts.

[Correspondent] Yegor Timurovich, your decision to go is probably, nevertheless, a political decision first and foremost, and I think that it is also linked to the setback suffered in the elections by the Russia's Choice bloc that you lead.

[Gaydar] Undoubtedly. Of course, I must say honestly that the results of the elections on 12 December came as a very serious blow to me, because they put a question mark for me over the axiom that I have always taken as a starting point in my life and work. That is the axiom that we have a reasonable and rational people, full of common sense. I found it very hard to understand how my fellow citizens, men and women, could vote for a party that is preparing to send their children off to fight in Turkey and Iran.

On the other hand, one must understand the realities. Our country has passed through vast and very serious social changes, a cataclysm. The whole way of life is changing. It really is very hard. Nevertheless, after some thought, I came to the conclusion and conviction that this is only a short-term black-out of reason.

I am absolutely convinced that common sense is very deeply rooted in Russia and that it will be triumphant, that people really do not want wars or military adventures or new revolutions. They want a normal, calm life. They want a normal, calm life; they do want everyone to be turned into entrepreneurs; they do not need that. In a normal, calm life in a market economy, the overwhelming number of people simply work normally and calmly and live on their perfectly adequate wages.

Russian big business, including the new businesses, is essentially divided on questions of economic policy. This big business includes structures and people who have a stake in being closely linked with the state apparatus, who have a stake in decisions being taken by individuals, who have a stake in the allocation of advantageous resources in one form or another and of course who, categorically, have no interest in financial stabilization.

[Correspondent] Excuse me, Yegor Timurovich, advantageous decisions taken by individuals—this is, simply speaking, when a specific person...

[Gaydar, interrupting] Simply speaking, this is when there is an official sitting at a table with a long line of people in front of him. People come to see him, and as a result he can sign a paper, a quota, for example. Such a quota is worth \$5, 10, or 15 million, and he decides who among these hundred people in the line gets 5 millions, who gets 7 million, who gets 10 million, and who gets nothing. I think that there can be no situation more conducive to corruption. I cannot imagine any state apparatus set up without fear or reproach which will not take bribes in such a situation.

[Correspondent] I see. This is the part of business which you tried to wage war on.

[Gaydar] I did not try to wage war on it but I tried to wage war on behalf of a policy which rules out these forms of enrichment. But there is, of course, another side to Russian business. That is the side which is oriented toward the long-term aim, which well understands that such a form of business is a dead end, for the country at least, which in effect asks for one thing: Give us stable conditions in which to work, give us predictable and comprehensible rates of inflation, give us a firm ruble, give us taxes which are not prohibitively high—and these prohibitively high taxes are a direct result of the state's handing out so much on an individual basis—and in general we will cope with our problems, ourselves. That is the side of Russian business which in my view supports the wise policy which is the only possible policy for Russia if we really want to bring our country out onto a normal path of development.

[Correspondent] It is difficult to imagine a party which would go into the elections with a program that declared: We are creating a state in which bureaucrats allocate vast favorable credits for commercial banks under the pretext of supporting production. Usually the program looks different and, as far as I know, it is always other words which are used, words about national greatness, about the renaissance of the Soviet Union and so on. That is, the more, let us say, complicated the real policies and the real interests behind it are, the finer the slogans sound. As far as I know you had virtually no such fine slogans during the election campaign.

[Gaydar] You are right. Usually, such a policy proposing the strict combination of interests of corrupt officialdom and parts of the domestic bourgeoisie uses as a cover slogans of national greatness or national imperial slogans. If internal policy is impossible to defend, in frank talk, in frank discussion, they always try to sway people with the chimera of imperial greatness, and as far as the chimera of imperial greatness is concerned, it is quite a simple matter; it should be remembered that the Soviet Union collapsed when the monetary system collapsed, when the Soviet ruble began to be worthless. Ukraine ran away from it, everybody ran away from it. And as soon as, with all the inconsistency of our policy, the ruble became convertible, as soon as signs of stability arose, they reached out to Russia, lines formed of those wanting to deal with us, wanting to create a common economic

space, and attitudes to integration with Russia changed immediately and radically. Unfortunately, defeat in the elections on 12 December objectively stopped us from resolving these tasks. In the end, we lost the battle but I am convinced that we will win the war.

Constitutional Court Judge Zorkin Resumes Work

LD2601225494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] It has already been reported that Valeriy Zorkin has resumed his duties as a Constitutional Court judge. Yelena Sandomirskaya reports:

[Sandomirskaya] According to Valeriy Dmitriyevich himself, he did not stop his work in the Constitutional Court, as he regards the decision on his forcible removal as unjust and legally incorrect, which is, I would like to note, not the same thing. But all this is in the past. Today Judge Valeriy Zorkin has new problems: to draw up a draft law on the Constitutional Court and to elect its chairman. As to the new Russian constitution, Valeriy Zorkin said that he has always criticized it. But because it is considered to have been adopted, there is nothing else to do but to protect the new main law. Valeriy Zorkin said that being a judge who always respects the law, he will guard any other constitution. I hope that the defense process will be held within the court and not far outside its framework—this is what Judge Valeriy Zorkin promised.

Zhirinovskiy Predicts Fall of Government

LD2601195294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Report on joint news conference by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and Gerhard Frey, leader of the German People's Union by correspondent R. Safronov; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Safronov] Today, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and his German friend, Gerhard Frey, leader of the German People's Union [Deutsche Volksunion], held a joint news conference.

Both talked of their attachment to German-Russian friendship. Frey reproved a number of German journalists who write disrespectfully about the future Russian president. Zhirinovskiy predicted the emergence of a Moscow-Berlin axis and added Delhi—evidently in connection with [his book]: "The Last Push South."

In his words, the present government would fall in the autumn without having solved a single problem and then the president himself would invite him to Zavidovo and would entrust him with the mandate to form a government. At the very worst, he was ready to head one of the power ministries or the Foreign Ministry.

In three months, according to him, the government of the single unblemished party—the Liberal Democratic

Party—would root out 5,000 armed gangs, put an end to military conversion, and completely cut off neighboring republics. Zhirinovskiy denied that criminal proceedings had been instigated against him, accusing him of propagating war in connection with his book "The Last Push South." He stressed that everything would occur without a single shot being fired. First, Russia would withdraw its troops from the south and then the peoples there, beset by conflict, would ask to be put under Russian dominion.

As for his coming visit to Europe, Zhirinovskiy said that he was interested in the present and that was why he did not plan to visit Auschwitz and Dachau.

[Zhirinovskiy] I am only in the capital for a few hours—Ljubljana, Belgrade, Warsaw—and millions of people are standing there shouting: Russia, Russians, we are behind you. They kiss my hand, throw flowers at my feet, and I have difficulty escaping back to Moscow.

[Safronov] In characteristic form, Zhirinovskiy promised a permanent tundra residence permit for journalists who slandered him.

Zhirinovskiy Denies Speeches, Books Advocate War

LD2601163894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Report on news conference by Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, by correspondent Anna Prokhorova; including recorded excerpts from news conference; From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the procurator general's office instituted criminal proceedings against Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Zhirinovskiy, State Duma deputy and leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], who was to go to Yugoslavia, held a news conference in Moscow today.

[Correspondent Anna Prokhorova] Journalists were interested most of all in Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's attitude to the fact that the procurator general has instituted criminal proceedings according to clause 71 of the Russian criminal code, that is, war propaganda.

[Zhirinovskiy] I have been telling you for an hour—no violence, not a single shot, and the same is true for all my speeches. I have already said that if there are people with sick minds who claim that my speeches or books contain some kind of call for war, they should be examined by a psychiatrist.

[Prokhorova] Asked whether the LDPR was set up with money received from the Communist Party or the KGB, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that greedy communists did not give him money and....

[Zhirinovskiy] If the State Security Committee had helped me, I would not be sitting here now but in the Kremlin. This was their downfall precisely—they did not

admit people like myself while they themselves withered away, went into decay, and the country and the economy collapsed together with them.

[Prokhorova] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that his party favors stopping aid to any regions outside Russia, immediately stopping conversion, and hitting at crime. The LDP is prepared to take part in forming the government but....

[Zhirinovskiy] I would like very much if Kozyrev, Chubays, Shokhin, and Fedorov would leave the government. They are in the process of leaving it. I think, they all will have left by May. But those who will replace them will not be able to extricate Russia from the crisis, either. We ourselves will form the government in autumn and normal positive development in the country will start.

[Prokhorova] On 28 January Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will fly to Belgrade. He is visiting Serbia in order to try and help his blood brothers.

Zhirinovskiy Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues

MK2701094094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
27 Jan 94 p 1

[Konstantin Popov report under the "Press Conference" rubric: "V.V. Zh. Looks Closer at Tundra"]

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is true to himself. As soon as journalists switched their attention to Yegor Gaydar following his unexpected resignation, Zhirinovskiy immediately tried to regain the initiative. He has succeeded in doing so to a certain extent—there was no room to swing a cat, as the saying goes, at the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] chief's news conference yesterday.

Those who expected yet more scandalous statements from the LDPR leader, however, were clearly disappointed. Neither Zhirinovskiy, nor Gerhard Frey, leader of the German National Union [GNU], said anything new; they only spoke over and over again about the interparty cooperation between the LDPR and the GNU and the prospects for friendly relations between the Russian Federation and the FRG. Zhirinovskiy even expressed his hope that in the near future a new Berlin-Koenigsberg-Moscow-Urals-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok highway will make it possible to transport peaceful freight from Japan to Germany. Russia will benefit from that and will become a great power once again. V.V. Zh. also dreams about Russian becoming Germany's second language.

With regard to domestic policy, Zhirinovskiy promised that as soon as next fall he would form his one-party government (the current one, he said, will break up soon), which will lead the country along a special path and will be able to lift Russia out of the crisis.

As a matter of fact, Zhirinovskiy dismissed all charges regarding the propaganda of war: "The prosecutor's

office has not brought and will never bring charges against me," he said, "Whereas my book, "The Last Dash to the South" will soon become a mandatory textbook for all higher educational establishments of the country." As for V.V. Zh.'s next masterpiece, it will be entitled "Last Train Car to the North; Last Stop, Taymyr; Residence Permit, the Tundra." The hint is ambiguous: either Zhirinovskiy is going to send all his ill-wishers to Siberia, or he plans to obtain a residence permit in the tundra himself. Under a court ruling, one may assume.

For the time being, however, Zhirinovskiy "has to leave for a number of Balkan countries for a couple of days and to address a 2- million-strong rally in Belgrade." On his way back, V.V. Zh. plans to spend a few hours in Warsaw.

Zhirinovskiy Advocates Alignment With Germany, India

BR2601135594 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian
21 Jan 94 pp 76-79

["Extracts" of interview with Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by Rolf Gauffin; date, place not given: "Prague? Let Us Give It to Germany"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gauffin] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, in your book, "The Last Drive South," are you describing a security system or a new Russian empire? What would you prefer for the Baltic states, the Caucasus, and Central Asia—a Russian military presence or annexation?

[Zhirinovskiy] Events in the Transcaucasus show that, without Russia, those peoples will always fight each other—Armenia against Azerbaijan, Georgia against Abkhazia, Ossetia, and so forth. This will happen everywhere along Russia's southern borders—Uzbeks, Kazakhs, and Tajiks will fight each other. But I say that there will not be a Russian military presence in these areas. All we can do is sell weapons. If they want to buy them, they can do so only in Russia.

[Gauffin] Are you not afraid that Russia risks a multiplication of situations such as that in Afghanistan?

[Zhirinovskiy] Have you ever wondered what Afghanistan is like now? It is a country without a government, where one gang fights another, where one city fights another. This is the future of Central Asia. After 30-40 years the roads in those lands will be in ruins, there will be no energy, transport will have ground to a halt, and hospitals will not function. The entire region will plunge into the abyss. Then Iran and Turkey will intervene. It will be hell. Then, after a further 20-30 years, they will plead with Russia to return to guarantee stability. This, especially with regard to the psychological factor.

[Gauffin] So what do you intend to do?

[Zhirinovskiy] From Moscow we can force those small nations to stop fighting. Since they are aware of the strength of Russia's industry and Armed Forces, they must stop the destruction. Together with the international community, they will ask us for help. We will examine the possibility of halting the disaster, but only if they pay us. Otherwise, we will leave those regions to slide downhill, as is now happening in the Transcaucasus and Tajikistan.

[Gauffin] How far would you go in defending the Russian minorities living in the former Soviet states—Estonia, for instance?

[Zhirinovskiy] First, all Russians living outside their homeland must be granted dual nationality. Then we will defend them, mainly by means of economic instruments. For instance, if the Russians were forced to leave the Baltic states and were thus to lose their property, then the value of their lost assets will be included in the price of the goods that we sell to those states.

[Gauffin] Do you really believe that you can implement such a policy to defend Russians living outside their homeland?

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes. Let us take Estonia as an example. If the Russians do not obtain the right to vote in that country, we will implement an economic blockade. And without Russia's sources of energy and infrastructures, Estonia will be completely annihilated as a state. This is why we will never use military force, but will use the force of law and the economy, instead, to protect Russians' interests.

[Gauffin] In an interview published by NAZIONALZEITUNG—one of the German neo-Nazi organs—you said that the Oder-Neisse line, the present border between Poland and Germany, is not history's final word. Could you describe what you consider the legitimate borders in the center of our continent?

[Zhirinovskiy] Let us start with Estonia. There are Russians living there. This territory must therefore be included within Russia's borders. Estonia must be assigned to the Leningrad District. But Tallinn, the country's present capital, should remain a kind of city republic, like Luxembourg, Monaco, or Liechtenstein. The rest of Estonian territory belongs to Russia.

[Gauffin] Carry on, Mr. Zhirinovskiy...

[Zhirinovskiy] In Latvia over half the population is Russian. In Riga only 35 percent of the population are Latvians. So the whole of Latvia must go to Russia.

[Gauffin] What else?

[Zhirinovskiy] Lithuania, with its capital, Kaunas (Lithuania's present capital is Vilnius; Kaunas was the country's capital until World War II—L'ESPRESSO editor's note), and with the cities of Panevezys and Siauliai, will form a small Lithuanian State. All the rest is Russia's.

[Gauffin] What should be done with Koeningsberg [Kaliningrad], [philosopher] Immanuel Kant's home town?

[Zhirinovskiy] Koeningsberg is part of Russia. Some day we may return it to Germany. We would like to give back to the West whatever the West wants.

[Gauffin] Where should Poland be situated?

[Zhirinovskiy] Gdansk, Wroclaw, and Szczecin, which used to be part of Prussia, belong to Germany. And if Poland wants Lvov (now in Ukraine, but in Poland until 1939—L'ESPRESSO editor's note), we may even accept its request. This, to compensate the Poles for its losses. It will be Russia's gift to the West. But eastern Ukraine is entirely Russia's. The same applies to Moldova and Belarus.

[Gauffin] Let us consider Slovakia...

[Zhirinovskiy] Some day, perhaps, Slovakia will want to become part of Russia. The Czech Republic, however, will go to Germany. Austria and little Slovenia should unite. The future Germany-Austria-Slovenia will have to have access to the Adriatic. This is the German people's will. Thus the Germans will have well-founded historical borders to the east and south.

[Gauffin] Let us return for a moment to the countries that are currently part of the CIS.

[Zhirinovskiy] Our problem lies to the south. Throughout its history Kazakhstan has never had a role as an independent state. The whole of Kazakhstan is nothing but southern Siberia. Alma-Ata used to be called Vernyy (which means "loyal" in Russian), never Almaty (which means "father of the apple" in Kazakh), its present official name.

[Gauffin] What would you do with other neighboring Asian countries?

[Zhirinovskiy] Kyrgyzstan, which used to belong to China, must go to Russia. There has never existed a state called "Kyrgyzstan." As for the rest, there are no problems of any kind with Mongolia, China, Japan, and India.

[Gauffin] In conclusion, Mr. Zhirinovskiy, are you aiming to create a Russian-German axis, a continental axis to set against NATO's influence?

[Zhirinovskiy] Let me explain to you how I see the future. Some day there will be a greater Germany and a new Russia, which will reach an agreement with India. India has 1 billion inhabitants. We have 300 million. So, together with Germany and India, we would total more or less 2 billion people. Then the world will take whatever form we want. India and Russia together will neutralize China in Asia. With Germany, Russia can neutralize Europe.

Questioning of Yazov on Coup Attempt Continues*PM2601150194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1*

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "The Case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency: It Was Planned To 'Instill Order'"]

[Text] Let us recall what feelings were aroused in us all by the tanks and armored personnel carriers which appeared in the capital 19 August 1991. This was the first time, and it shook us and aroused bewilderment and anger.

Yes, everything was different then. People, ordinary residents of the capital, seemed prepared to lie down under the caterpillar tracks. No less bewildered, officers and soldiers looked at them and heard the words "Shame!" and "Fascists!" addressed to themselves for the first time.

It was a dirty business—to make the Army clash with the people, whom it is called upon to protect. But the court, which is continuing the interrogation of Marshal Dmitriy Yazov, former USSR minister of defense, is not in the business of emotions, as the saying goes.

The second consecutive session was devoted to ascertaining the actions of undoubtedly one of the key figures in the State Committee for the State of Emergency—the former USSR defense minister. The nature of the state prosecution's questions attests that the prosecutors are seeking to determine the precise degree of guilt of each of the accused. Therefore, literally all actions, including those before the start of the dramatic events of 19 August, are being worked out in detail.

As is known, before the start of the interrogation Dmitriy Yazov himself gave a brief account of the history of the sending of troops into the capital and even put a figure on their numerical strength. But many specific questions are arising in the course of the interrogation concerning the nature of the servicemen's actions and also the tasks which the troops were to have been set subsequently.

One thing is clear: At that time the chief gamble was made on the Army. It was planned to "instill order" precisely with its help. But the rapidly changing situation, the Muscovites' determination, and the obvious dissension among the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency themselves prevented those plans from being realized.

The interrogation of the former defense minister will most likely continue at the next session of the Russian Federation Supreme Court's Military Collegium.

Yazov Denies Involvement in Deaths*LD2601163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[Text] Former Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov has denied accusations of his involvement in the death of

three persons during the August 1991 putsch. At the court hearings in Moscow Wednesday he said that soldiers had to shoot only under extreme conditions. He said that in line with the military regulations servicemen have the right to use fire arms in case of an attack on a patrol.

Yazov said that the eight armored personnel carriers that moved along the Garden Ring were patrol vehicles and soldiers inside them were forced to open fire when they faced danger to their lives.

The ex-minister said that as a result of the investigation into the murder of three persons, experts found no corpus delicti in the actions of servicemen of the Taman Division who were involved in the incident.

The court hearings will continue January 27 at 10 a.m.

Yeltsin To Release Book on 1991 Events*LD2601135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—Boris Yeltsin puts finishing touches to a book which is to be published in France in April this year, Viktor Ilyushin, top aide of the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

"The main section of the book deals with the president's comprehension of the 1991 events when Yeltsin assumed office. The author sets out his point of view on the political processes evolving in Russia since then, and shares with future readers his keen feeling for the country's future", Ilyushin said.

The book which has about 500 pages has no working title yet. "No one has read the book so far," Ilyushin said, adding that he does not know who helped the president prepare the manuscript for publication.

Asked whether people in Russia will be able to read the president's reminiscences, the aide answered in the affirmative.

Further on Shaposhnikov Appointment to Arms Company*LD2601183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former CIS Armed Forces commander, his representative in the state company for arms exports-imports, Rosvooruzheniye.

The company was set up on November 25 1993 to handle arms exports-imports, including weapons, military hardware, equipment, double-purpose technologies and strategic raw materials. Additionally, it uses its own

funds and borrowed means to invest in the defence industry. The company has been established to protect Russia's state interests while determining contract prices for arms exports and control hard currency revenues from such deals.

Rosvooruzheniye plans to set up maintenance bases and training centers for specialists to transfer relations with partners purchasing Russian arms and military hardware on a long-term basis. The company has been allowed to set up branches and offices inside and outside of Russia, including with the participation of foreign capital. At present it has branches in 38 countries and cooperates with 60 countries.

Moscow Prosecutor Drops Fraud Case Against Rutskey

PM2601121194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 6

[Aleksandr Ryabov article: "Show Flops. A.V. Rutskey's Name Defended in 'Trust Case'"]

[Excerpts] A brief report that Moscow City Prosecutor's Office passed a decree dropping the criminal case, brought on the basis of Russian Federation Security Council material, concerning former Vice President A.V. Rutskey's involvement in financial transactions of the foreign firm Trade Links Ltd. and in its account at Zurich's Indosuez Bank was glimpsed fleetingly on the air and seemingly vanished forever in the zone of silence.

The reason is understandable. On the one hand it was awkward for journalist colleagues to refute their own recent pages-long "exposes" of Aleksandr Vladimirovich's involvement in certain alleged dealings with the firm's Swiss accounts. After weak and unconvincing attempts to "catch" Rutskey constructing his own dacha, hints at his links with foreign currency accounts abroad seemed a much bigger scoop. The propaganda machine worked without respite during the August days.

From the very first salvos of this attack it became clear that the battle against the vice president was being waged by a force much more powerful and influential than simple reporter's curiosity. Rutskey "came under fire" from not only the president's apparatus but also the very highest echelons of behind-the-scenes world power. [passage omitted]

On the basis of all the material obtained the prosecutor's office deemed it necessary to drop the case against Rutskey.

Rutskey is now a prisoner at Lefortovo. Everything associated with his name in the month to six weeks before the tragic events is now apparently no longer of any great importance. But this seems so only to people like Makarov [former chief of the administration for supporting the commission for combating crime and corruption]. The Moscow City Prosecutor's Office

decree says reassuringly: The name of Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskey has been defended, albeit with a tragic delay.

While the criminal case brought on the basis of Russian Federation Security Council material has, quite naturally and normally from both the moral and legal points of view, provided grounds for bringing another criminal case—for libeling the former vice president under Section 3, Article 130 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

Economic Issues

Fedorov, Chernomyrdin Air Economic Controversies

LD2601202294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Report by correspondent Natalya Chernyshova on interview with former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov and news conference given by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 26 January, including recordings of Fedorov and Chernomyrdin remarks—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Chernyshova] From being a headache of the national economy, Russia's agro-industrial complex turned into a political headache late in January. In any case, one of the reasons Boris Fedorov cited in explaining his reluctance to stay as finance minister was linked with subsidies for agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha keeping his post.

[Fedorov] Why is our grain more expensive than in the world market? Who has run up grain-related debts? It is Mr. Zaveryukha, the government, and so on by fixing too high a price. They knew perfectly well that the budget did not have this money. But for me, what is not in the budget does not exist.

[Chernyshova] In addition, Boris Fedorov believes that he cannot stay in his post if, instead of the 80 percent inflation at the end of the year which he promised, 300 [percent] is offered today, while the issuing of 10 trillion rubles planned by the Finance Ministry for the first quarter is being replaced with 15 trillion by the prime minister.

[Fedorov] In any state, the finance minister is someone responsible for economic policy. When a situation takes shape that turns him into a cashier paying out money, I do not accept such a situation.

[Chernyshova] The former deputy prime minister cited all these arguments at the morning meeting with the president in the Kremlin, but found no understanding.

[Fedorov] He tried to persuade me, nevertheless, that there was no tragedy today, generally speaking, and that it was possible to go on working. I for one did not agree with this point.

[Chernyshova, addressing Fedorov] Why has not your resignation been accepted for such a long time?

[Fedorov] Neither the prime minister nor the president have ever complained to me about my performance. Many people are saying that there is a tendency to use individual reformers as a screen, a cover for changing the policy.

[Chernyshova] So Fedorov has been removed from work at his own request, removed or departed at a time difficult for the country. Some observers view the former minister's step as a position of principle, others as an escape from real difficulties. Many people, however, see this as a political [chess] castling and predict that both he and Gaydar will return but to an already new government.

The prime minister has invested our agriculture with political importance, too. He has just made a trip to Orel Oblast where he met with representatives of 18 central Russian oblasts which produce almost one-third of all agrarian output. They agreed on drafting a federal program for central Russia's revival which would require about 30 billion rubles. Also while there Viktor Chernomyrdin made a statement on an intent to return 4 trillion in the first quarter to pay back debts to the defense industry and the agrarian complex, something which, on the whole, showed the government's new tendencies. The prime minister stressed that this money should not be used for the needs of consumption, but who will be able to control this? At today's news conference which, in fact, was devoted to Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Italy, something transpired about domestic matters, too.

[Chernomyrdin] I am rather stingy and do not like to give out or pay back, therefore, if we are to go ahead with that, we will do this the way you mentioned. And the debts—this relates especially to debts—and the credits which should be given because credits should be used and enterprises will use credits—today we demanded that a mechanism be developed. This relates to the military-industrial complex, defense enterprises, and the agrarian complex. We want clarifications to be tabled on how this money is going to be used and where it will go.

[Chernyshova] The prime minister laughed, or only pretended to laugh when asked about the agrarian deputy prime minister's request for 40 trillion rubles to support the efficiency of agriculture.

[Chernomyrdin] As regards Zaveryukha's statement, he said that it was meant by the year 2050, that was how he explained it yesterday. As regards claims that he asks for these 40 trillion immediately now, it is simply someone's wish to turn Zaveryukha into a scapegoat, someone would just love this. They heard one figure but do not care about what followed.

[Chernyshova] In the main the conversation with journalists followed the usual pattern. Viktor Chernomyrdin promised that this month inflation would be 22 percent; he categorically rejected conjectures about alterations to

the reform policy and, for Italian journalists, spoke about Italian plans. We will have enough time to describe them to you when it starts.

Fedorov Augurs Dire Consequences of 'Economic Coup'

*MK2701092594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
27 Jan 94 p 1*

[Mikhail Leontyev report in the "Resignation" column: "The Economic Coup Has Occurred," incorporating statement by former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov]

[Excerpts] After a talk with the president yesterday morning, Boris Fedorov made a final decision to decline the post of finance minister in Mr. Chernomyrdin's new government. The president either did not want to or could not accept Fedorov's tough terms. [passage omitted]

As a result, what has been expected actually happened: Fedorov resigned. The bitter struggle between the finance minister and the chairman of the Russian Central Bank ended with the latter's victory. Today Mr. Gerashchenko, enjoying bucolic delights in the company of the prime minister who has given him shelter, can settle his scores with Fedorov, who has really annoyed him, with relish. The paradox is that now Gerashchenko will have to bear the entire responsibility for the state of the monetary system. Meanwhile the current chairman of the Central Bank does not want to assume such responsibility. Selective support for the basic production sectors and the "nonmonetarist methods" of economic policy espoused by Mr. Gerashchenko are so popular in the new Cabinet today that there will be no place under the nonmonetarist sun left for the Central Bank chief. Gerashchenko is not so stupid or unprofessional not to understand the danger of this sweeping craze for similar ideas: Therefore there is no way that he can satiate the appetites of all the agro-industrial zaveryukhas [apparent pun: Zaveryukha, the last name of the non-reformist minister, sounding close to "zveryukha," meaning "(large) animal"]. Therefore the financial situation will be progressively, although perhaps not catastrophically, deteriorating while relations with his colleagues in the economic leadership will be cooling. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin is more than a pragmatist; generally, he is little interested in the long-term economic consequences of his current decisions. While being much more qualified, from the apparatus point of view, than most of the "reformers," the prime minister is at the same time profoundly and hopelessly illiterate economically. This does not allow him to make unpopular decisions without outside pressure because he is incapable of understanding or believing in the inevitability of a positive outcome.

Today a most serious danger is looming over the premier—what has now become the traditional Russian "vice presidency syndrome." By virtue of his makeup and former experience, the incumbent prime minister is

less than any others inclined to yield to emotions. Even so, the temptation of power has broken tougher men. Especially since Viktor Chernomyrdin has demonstrated his ability publicly to accentuate his independence from the president. [passage omitted]

Statement by Boris Fedorov

Boris Fedorov, who has resigned the post of finance minister, has announced the impermissibility of joining the Cabinet of Ministers or keeping in their posts "people who have caused colossal economic and political damage to the state and who are intransigent and open opponents of the reform policy." This is said in Mr. Fedorov's statement Wednesday after his meeting with Boris Yeltsin.

"I cannot agree with the turn of policy that has recently been formulated by the premier and is now being implemented in practice," Boris Fedorov stressed. "The triumph of the nonviable and illiterate ideology of Gosplan [State Planning Agency] and the red economic managers in the cabinet, in the context of the market economy, inevitably dooms the country to collapse and the people to falling living standards," he stated.

"There is no alternative to our policy, and we will soon be able to see this in practice. The turn away from the stabilization course means soaring inflation, the people's declining real incomes, the dollar rate surging to 10,000 rubles by the end of the year, the depreciation of savings, the beginning of a commodity shortage, increasing capital flight, and Russia's isolation from the world markets," Boris Fedorov stressed. "Moreover, there will be neither production growth, nor fresh capital inputs, nor ways to deal with the employment problem. The threat of a social explosion from theory becomes reality."

Boris Fedorov appealed to the president: "An economic coup is under way in the country—a retreat. The only hope is you! What matters is not Fedorov, who is always ready to come back and defend Russia's interests to the end. What matters is the fate of the country, which is being decided in these days and these hours. I hope that no one has any illusions that economics can be separated from politics."

After his meeting with the president Boris Fedorov said in an interview with INTERFAX that "a team of red economic managers has come to power who know how to run large enterprises but do not know the meaning of macroeconomics." He thinks that the present government will be able to stay in office until fall 1994 when strong manifestations of social discontent are possible.

Merit of 'Mild' Market Reform Questioned

PM2601113394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 5

[Yevgeniy Popov article: "Puppeteers Required?..."]

[Text] So, Yegor Gaydar's departure from the government and Boris Fedorov's conjectured departure have been followed by the equally farcical "self-resignations" of the puppeteers.

Western radio stations have reported that the expert economists—Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard University and his Swedish colleague Anders Aslund—have ostentatiously given up the posts of advisers to the Russian Government.

Several BBC programs have carried the farewell interview of probably the most famous of the monetarist puppeteers, with whose name the economic schemes of our own Russian "Chicago boys" were linked in the past. Jeffrey Sachs reported that he now deems it impossible to teach reason to the Russian authorities, which are ossified in antimarket dogmas, since with the departure of Gaydar and Fedorov it is no longer a government of reforms.

World news agencies have simultaneously disseminated a report that the Russian Government has decided to enlist as experts two economists from the entourage of USSR ex-President Gorbachev—Nikolay Petrakov and Leonid Abalkin, who have already embarked on elaborating a "more moderate economic policy."

The change of scenery and prompters on the Russian political stage probably gives second wind to a popular anecdote from the times of perestroika, which in its time was even heard from the rostrum of the Congress of People's Deputies. This amusing parable maintained that the U.S. president's 100 bodyguards included one who, to put it mildly, was insufficiently reliable, but the U.S. president did not, alas, know precisely which one. If the anecdote is to be believed, the French president, to whom, as to all other Frenchmen, rumor ascribes particularly ardent feelings for beautiful women, has somewhat similar problems: How is he to divine which of the 100 most charming ladies is infected with AIDS? But, according to the anecdote, the great reformer Gorbachev had the gravest thoughts: There are 100 expert economists in his entourage, and just one of them knows the path to market prosperity, but Gorbachev cannot guess precisely which one.

The events of recent years, however, even make us seriously doubt that the ex-president really did have even one expert seer! At any rate, the majority of his advisers gambled on the salutary and miracle-working self-regulating role of the market, which Gorbachev, although not an economist, had perfectly reasonable grounds to doubt—back in 1989, with righteous irritation, he made the following comment on the prescription of Vasilii Selyunin, also an economist, who has now become one of the leaders of "Russia's Choice": "He says that the market itself will put everything in place within a month.... I know just one thing: Within two weeks such a 'market' will bring the entire people out onto the streets and sweep aside any government, however much they swear loyalty to the people!"

The ex-president somewhat underestimated our people's legendary long-suffering, but the recent elections show perfectly well that the people's angry reaction will, in the final analysis, be precisely like that, sweeping aside the government.

As is known, the experts surrounding Gorbachev included exemplary, assiduous apprentices of Jeffrey Sachs. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Stanislav Shatalin did not promise the country market prosperity as quickly as Selyunin did, but nor did they defer it for too long—just 500 days. That spirited program elicited caustic comments from world-renowned specialists. Hisao Kanamori, chairman of the Japanese Economic Research Center, called the scheme “an impossible dream, totally incompatible with the real state of affairs in the Soviet Union.” In his conviction, “the very fact that this kind of program has been advanced proves that Soviet people do not know what a market economy is.”

Four years ago, in the same interview with the KYODO News Agency, the leading Japanese economist also did not spare Petrakov and Abalkin, whose “moderate plan” for market transformations was ultimately approved by Gorbachev: Hisao Kanamori concluded that this program also did not contain “even short-term economic goals.” Most of all the Japanese economist warned against the very “shock therapy” that was imposed on us in recent years. In response to the radical reformers' complaints that their plans had been “completely emasculated” he gave a truly prophetic warning: “...If the reforms had been implemented at such a fast pace, the muddle (in the Soviet economy) would have been still further exacerbated. The Soviets have no choice other than to advance gradually, implementing phased economic reforms.”

In connection with the demarche of Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov and then that of their foreign guides-advisers, the debate in the mass media over whether there was “shock therapy” in Russia has once again become lively. Jeffrey Sachs himself maintains that there was not.

Of course, everything is relative. Russians, who have been subjected to total impoverishment as a result of the “Gaydar reforms,” must bear in mind that a yet harder fate would have awaited them if our Russian monetarists had paid still more attention to Jeffrey Sachs' promptings. The Russian economy, to use the figurative expression of WASHINGTON POST commentator Jim Hoagland, would have “floated belly up” much sooner.

The true aim of Jeffrey Sachs' prescriptions is precisely to turn Russia's economy “belly up.”

An interesting analytical document has been disseminated by researchers at the well-known Schiller Institute. They neatly set out, as it were, the whole package of “obligatory recommendations” from the IMF and the Harvard school of monetarists. The scheme provides theoretically for a reduction in inflation and in the budget deficit to 5-10 percent a month, but the chief aim

of the “reforms” is to open the borders to Western goods and to devalue the national currency in order to increase profitable (for the West!) exports of raw materials. The opening of the borders to Western capital investments and the closure of the majority of loss-making Russian enterprises are aimed at the same thing. “At the same time,” the researchers state, “the nature of the reforms is not so important in itself (the only stipulation is for a reduction in the share of ownership). The chief thing is self-restriction and openness. But such a policy will lead in practice to the closure of almost all Russian enterprises and, accordingly, to a production slump, unemployment, and then also inflation.”

So it makes sense to give the matter some serious thought: Will Russia gain a great deal if it approaches these “yawning market heights” not in one month or even 500 days but much later—on the basis of “mild reforms” according to the latest recommendations of Petrakov and Abalkin?

Military Issues

Grachev Reintroduces Directorate System

PM2601122194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the “Military Review” rubric]

[Text] The Russian Federation minister of defense has issued a directive on re-forming the former Main Military-Political Directorate, and over 150 officers and generals will have to look for a new job. There will now be no more deputy commanders specifically for educational work above corps and division level. This work has been given to deputy commanders. The sorest point in the Russian Army—discipline—will be the concern of chiefs of organs for troops' conditions and service.

Federal Assembly

Duma Seeks Government Action on Food, Agriculture

PM2601153394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation State Duma Decree No. 16-1 GD signed by Rybkin and carried under the general heading “At the State Duma”: “On the Adoption of a Decree by the Russian Federation Government”]

[Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

With a view to creating the requisite conditions for building up production of agricultural raw materials and foodstuffs, and for ensuring stabilization and the steady

development of the agro-industrial complex under market-economy conditions, the Russian Federation Government shall be instructed to adopt the decree "On the Functioning of the Russian Federation Agro-Industrial Complex in 1994" within five days.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma
[Dated] Moscow, 19 January 1994
No. 16-1 GD

Duma Chairman Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2601175994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, today received U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering, at the latter's request. According to the Federal Assembly's press service, the lengthy conversation touched on a broad circle of questions including the organization of the work of the State Duma and the priorities for its legislative work.

Rybkin noted that the plan for the work of the Duma has been coordinated with the activities of the president, the government, and other structures of power. The U.S. ambassador said that the United States was interested in the effective work of the Duma and was convinced of its necessity for Russia. In his opinion, its work will make it possible to resolve Russia's economic problems more quickly, including with the aid of the world community.

Pickering also proposed, on instructions from the U.S. Congress, assistance in organizing information technologies for the Russian Federal Assembly, ITAR-TASS reports.

Duma Official Cautions Deputies on Trips to Crimea

LD2601204194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2020 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma's committee on CIS affairs, appealed to Russian parliamentarians on Wednesday to refrain from trips to the Crimea until after the second round of presidential elections there next Sunday.

He said such trips might provoke a "flare up of political passions" in and around this semi-autonomous republic within Ukraine, even though "nobody wants to steal Crimea from Ukraine overnight", or infringe on the right of "the Crimean people to express their will in deciding the peninsula's status".

Ukraine fears what it sees as an "unfavourable outcome" after the first round of the Crimean presidential elections on January 16 revealed that a candidate representing the pro-Russian circles was in the lead.

Zatulin said Ukraine was unlikely to call off the second round of elections, a conclusion he drew after two days of talks with the Russian ambassador to Kiev and the Ukrainian ambassador to Moscow. "There is no danger that the second round of the presidential elections in the Crimea can be aborted", Zatulin said.

However, as a precaution, the Ukrainian parliament last week voted for an amendment to the Constitution giving Kravchuk power to annul any decision made in Ukraine or its "Crimean autonomy" if it runs counter to Ukraine's Constitution, laws or presidential decrees. In other words, Leonid Kravchuk is authorized to veto an unwelcome outcome of the presidential elections in the Crimea.

Allocation of Committee Chairman Posts Analyzed

MK2601114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 2

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev and Dmitriy Kuznets under the "Parliament" rubric: "Duma's Political Arithmetic. Were Committees Divided 'Fairly?'"]

[Text] The exciting process of "the organization of the Duma's work" has unexpectedly ended in the peaceful distribution of the main posts among parliamentary factions.

There has been virtually no Duma faction displeased with the "organization." Only the "12 December Union" and the "Russian Path," groups that did not manage to register on time and, consequently, were not allowed to grab their share, were mightily displeased. The other factions resolved the issue amicably by adopting as a basis Gennadiy Zyuganov's scheme: "The organizational strength of each faction should be proportionate to its numerical representation at the State Duma, taking into account, of course, the faction leaders' opinions."

The communist leader even recommended that a mathematical method be used for calculating this: each elected post in parliament will be assigned a certain number of points, the points will be summed up, and the total number of State Duma seats will be divided by the sum. Thus the "price" of each seat will be calculated. Each faction, depending on its strength, may thus "buy" one post or another. As a result of further agreements, a joint "package" will be put together, which will be approved by the Duma. Presently it is hard to say if the faction leaders actually calculated anything, but the final distribution of the chamber's key offices fitted surprisingly well into Mr. Zyuganov's abstract mathematical model. For instance, only two persons were nominated to the posts of committee chairmen by the fairly numerous Agrarian Party (APR) faction (55 deputies) because the Agrarians ran out of "points" after Ivan Rybkin's election as State Duma speaker. The aggregate numbers of committee chairmen and their deputies from "Russia's Choice" and the Liberal Democratic Party of

Russia [LDPR] are equal—the blocs hold 16 posts each. The "Choice" faction, however, comprises 78 deputies, while that of the LDPR has 63, so to strike "a fair deal" "Russia's Choice" was given the post of State Duma first deputy chairman, which was initially not foreseen, whereas the Liberal Democrats put up with "only" a deputy chairman.

In all, the LDPR leads in the number of "its own" Duma committee heads—5 out of 23. "Russia's Choice," the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord], and the "New Regional Policy" factions have three chairmen each. The Agrarians, the communists, and the "Yabloko" faction nominated two chairmen each. It should be noted, however, that the value of the committees is somewhat different. The post of Geopolitical Committee chairman (held by LDPR's Viktor Ustinov) is clearly lower in importance than the post of Security Committee chairman (held by RFCP's [Russian Federation Communist Party] Viktor Ilyukhin). Still, there have so far been no specific objections in that regard from the Liberal Democratic chief. This may be attributed to the fact that the Geopolitical Committee is one of two State Duma committees where one faction (the LDPR's in this case) has an absolute majority. The second of these committees, on agrarian matters, is, of course, dominated by the APR.

There was no malicious intent, however, in APR's and LDPR's "occupying" one committee each; according to the State Duma's provisional rules of procedure, each deputy must be "assigned" to a committee, so no wonder that the Agrarians and the Liberal Democrats chose precisely those committees that suited them best according to their "area of expertise." The other factions were also given the chairmanship in committees of their "expertise": "Yabloko," the budget and international affairs committees; "Women of Russia," on women's affairs; and the PRES, on regional policy, local authorities, and on CIS affairs.

The "fair" solution of organizational matters has so far proved only one thing: the communist-nationalist bloc of State Duma deputies, although it has a relative majority, did not venture to stage an open confrontation with the democrats; while the latter, having weighed it all, did not refuse to accept their due share. Only the disgruntled radical nationalists from the "Russian Path" called the day on which the personal "package" was approved "a black day for Russian patriots."

Decree Lists State Duma Appointments

PM2601123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree No. 13-1 dated 17 January 1994, signed by I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, and carried under the rubric "At the State Duma": "On the Deputy Chairmen of the State Duma, Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of State Duma

Committees, the Chairman of the State Duma Credentials Commission, the Chairman of the Comptroller's Office, and the Human Rights Commissioner"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

1. The following are elected in accordance with Section 1, Article 101 of the Russian Federation Constitution:

State Duma Deputy Mikhail Alekseyevich Mityukov as first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma;

State Duma Deputies Aleksandr Dmitriyevich Vengеровskiy, Valentin Alekseyevich Kovalev, and Alevtina Vasilyevna Fedulova as deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma.

2. The following State Duma deputies are elected chairmen and deputy chairmen of State Duma committees:

State Duma Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform:

chairman—Vladimir Borisovich Isakov;
deputy chairmen—Viktor Grigoryevich Vishnyakov, Sergey Anatolyevich Zenkin, Boris Andreyevich Zolotukhin.

State Duma Committee for Labor and Social Support:
chairman—Sergey Vyacheslavovich Kalashnikov;
deputy chairmen—Aleksandr Avraamovich Osovtsov, Tamara Eduardovna Chepasova, Tatyana Vladimirovna Yarygina.

State Duma Committee for Health Care:
chairman—Bela Anatolyevna Denisenko;
deputy chairmen—Galina Ivanovna Gusarova, Valentina Vasilyevna Kozhukhova, Vyacheslav Viktorovich Mikulin.

State Duma Committee for Ecology:
chairman—Mikhail Yakovlevich Lemeshev;
deputy chairmen—Tamara Vladimirovna Zlotnikova, Valeriy Ivanovich Nesterenko, Vladimir Vladimirovich Tetelmin.

State Duma Committee for Education, Culture, and Science:
chairman—Lyubov Petrovna Rozhkova;
deputy chairmen—Nikolay Nikolayevich Vorontsov, Mikhail Konstantinovich Glubokovskiy, Viktor Stepanovich Shevelukha.

State Duma Committee for Women, the Family, and Young People:
chairman—Galina Ivanovna Klimantova;
deputy chairmen—Yuriy Pavlovich Kuznetsov, Tamara Ilinichna Leta, Tamara Vasilyevna Pletneva.

State Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances:
chairman—Mikhail Mikhaylovich Zadornov;

deputy chairmen—Edvard Georgiyevich Zhuk, Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kulik, Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok.

State Duma Committee for Economic Policy:

chairman—Sergey Yuryevich Glazyev;
deputy chairmen—Aleksy Yuryevich Mikhaylov, Adrian Georgiyevich Puzanovskiy, Anatoliy Stepanovich Sidorov.

State Duma Committee for Ownership, Privatization, and Economic Activity:

chairman—Sergey Vasilyevich Burkov;
deputy chairmen—Pavel Grigoryevich Bunich, Sergey Viktorovich Ivanenko, Vladimir Aleksandrovich Lisichkin.

State Duma Committee for Agrarian Issues:

chairman—Aleksandr Grigoryevich Nazarchuk;
deputy chairmen—Ivan Valentinovich Starikov, Aleksey Andreyevich Chernyshev, Stanislav Ivanovich Shkuro.

State Duma Committee for Industry, Construction, Transportation, and Power Generation:

chairman—Vladimir Kuzmich Gusev;
deputy chairmen—Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Gusarov, Yuriy Konstantinovich Sevenard, Valentin Ivanovich Tatarchuk, Magomed Omarovich Tolboyev.

State Duma Committee for Natural Resources and the Use of Nature:

chairman—Nikolay Pavlovich Astafyev;
deputy chairmen—Yelena Mikhaylovna Bogdanova, Valeriy Borisovich Podmasko, Vladimir Sidorovich Surenkov.

State Duma Committee for Defense:

chairman—Sergey Nikolayevich Yushenkov;
deputy chairmen—Nikolay Maksimovich Bezborodov, Yevgeniy Yuryevich Loginov, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Piskunov.

State Duma Committee for Security:

chairman—Viktor Ivanovich Ilyukhin;
deputy chairmen—Sergey Semenovich Boskholov, Nina Viktorovna Krivelskaya, Viktor Pimenovich Mironov.

State Duma Committee for International Affairs:

chairman—Vladimir Petrovich Lukin;
deputy chairmen—Oleg Timofeyevich Bogolomov, Aleksey Valentinovich Mitrofanov, Aleksandra Vasilyevna Momdzhyan.

State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Fellow Countrymen:

chairman—Konstantin Fedorovich Zatulin;
deputy chairmen—Yuriy Yevgenyevich Voyevoda, Vyacheslav Vladimirovich Igrunov, Gennadiy Ivanovich Churkin.

State Duma Committee for Nationalities' Affairs:

chairman—Bair Bayaskhalanovich Zhamsuyev;
deputy chairmen—Yeremey Danilovich Aypin, Omar Omarovich Begov, Vladimir Nikolayevich Kozhemyakin.

State Duma Committee for Federation Affairs and Regional Policy:

chairman—Sergey Aleksandrovich Shapovalov;
deputy chairmen—Igor Mikhaylovich Bratishchev, Vladimir Vladimirovich Goman, Aleksandr Ivanovich Kozyrev.

State Duma Committee for Issues of Local Self-Government:

chairman—Anatoliy Yakovlevich Sliva;
deputy chairmen—Valentin Alekseyevich Kotlyar, Igor Vladislavovich Muravyev, Zifkat Islamovich Sayetgaliev.

State Duma Committee for the Affairs of Public Associations and Religious Organizations:

chairman—Viktor Ilich Zorkaltsev;
deputy chairmen—Irina Borisovna Zubkevich, Vladimir Anatolyevich Lepekhn, Vitaliy Viktorovich Savitskiy.

State Duma Committee for Organizing the Work of the State Duma:

chairman—Vladimir Anatolyevich Bauer;
deputy chairmen—Viktor Ivanovich Berestovoy, Yuriy Aleksandrovich Brusnitsyn, Igor Aleksandrovich Shichanin.

State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications:

chairman—Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin;
deputy chairmen—Igor Yevgenyevich Klochkov, Gennadiy Nikolayevich Seleznev, Oleg Aleksandrovich Finko.

State Duma Committee for Geopolitical Issues:

chairman—Viktor Ivanovich Ustinov;
deputy chairmen—Yuliy Solomonovich Gusman, Mikhail Nikolayevich Sidorov, Nikolay Sergeyevich Stolyarov.

3. State Duma Deputy Vitaliy Ivanovich Sevastyanov is elected chairman of the State Duma Credentials Commission.

4. State Duma Deputy Khachim Mukhamedovich Karmokov is appointed chairman of the Comptroller's Office under Paragraph "d," Section 1, Article 103 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

5. State Duma Deputy Sergey Adamovich Kovalev is appointed human rights commissioner under Paragraph "d," Section 1, Article 103 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[Dated] Moscow, 17 January 1994
No. 13-1 GD

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Arrives in St. Petersburg for Celebration

LD2701073794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0725
GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg January 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in St. Petersburg on Thursday morning to take part in celebrations devoted to the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation from the Nazi siege. He was welcomed at Pulkovo airport by city Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, head of the Leningrad regional administration Aleksandr Belyakov and other officials.

St. Petersburg, called Leningrad at that time, was completely surrounded by German troops on September 8, 1941. It then had a population of 2,544,000, but only 800,000 people survived to see the holiday salute marking the city's liberation on Thursday January 27, 1944.

About one million people, mostly women and children, were evacuated from the city in the period from January to November 1942 through the only lifeline over Lake Ladoga, 642,000 died from hunger, and about 20,000 were killed during air raids and shellings.

The German Air Force and artillery demolished more than 3,000 buildings and damaged more than 7,000. The population of the city voluntarily worked Sundays, a total of 50 million working hours, to restore Leningrad. Its pre-war townscape was practically restored by 1947.

From the airport President Yeltsin went to the Piskaryovskoye memorial cemetery to pay homage to hundreds of thousands of Leningraders buried there. Then he will visit the Marino settlement in Kirov district of Leningrad region, where he will be shown the "Lifting of the Leningrad Blockade" Diorama Museum. In the afternoon the president will attend the opening of the all-Russia "salute the victory" folk art festival at the "Oktyabrsky" grand concert hall.

President Yeltsin will return to Moscow in the evening of the same day.

Hails 50th Anniversary

LD2701095194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918
GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg January 27 TASS—This is "a holiday with tears in eyes", Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Thursday upon arrival to St. Petersburg to participate in the celebrations devoted to the 50th anniversary of the end of the Nazi blockade of the city during World War Two.

He was referring to numerous victims of the 900-day blockade of the city which was called Leningrad at the time. Some historians say that over a million of city residents died of hunger and cold during the siege.

"On this day I could not but stay together with Leningraders. 50 years have passed from the day when heroic efforts of soldiers and Leningraders rebuffed fascists from the city and thus ended the long blockade of Leningrad", the president said.

"No other city has lived through the same tragic events in its history which befell on the residents of the city on the Neva River. The Leningrad battle can be compared to the battle for Moscow and under Stalingrad, with the Kursk battle. However, the ordeal which Leningraders had survived cannot be compared to anything", Yeltsin said.

"Glory to war veterans who won this victory and eternal memory to those who were killed", the Russian president said and added that he, the government and the whole of Russia will always honour those who had given their lives to secure the great victory.

Predicts 'Tense Day' in Moscow 28 Jan

LD2701100194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919
GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg January 27 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin had to cut his visit to St. Petersburg to one day because of important developments awaiting him in Moscow.

"Tomorrow will be a very tense day" and it is necessary for the president to be in Moscow, Yeltsin told reporters upon arrival to St. Petersburg on Thursday. He did not elaborate.

Initially the president planned to stay two days in St. Petersburg and to visit the fortress of Kronshtadt where an anti-Bolshevik uprising took place in 1921 and was drowned in blood.

Yeltsin has recently rehabilitated the victims of the uprising.

Announces Erection of Zhukov Monument

LD2701112894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1024
GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Marjino January 27 TASS—A monument to Marshal Georgiy Zhukov, who led the Soviet Armed Forces to victory in the Second World War, will be erected in Red Square in Moscow, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced on Thursday [27 January] in the village of Marjino, near St. Petersburg, where he arrived to participate in the celebrations devoted to the 50th anniversary of the end of the Nazi blockade of the

second biggest Russian city. The 900-day blockade was broken near the village on January 18, 1943.

Yeltsin said that would be an equestrian statue and added that everybody remembers how the marshal inspected the victory parade in Red Square in 1945.

"This is the right decision (to erect the monument)," Yeltsin said and added the symbols of Russian patriotism and valour should replace the cemetery of top Soviet leaders in Red Square.

The main Russian square houses the mausoleum where the mummified body of Vladimir Lenin lies. Behind the mausoleum are graves of top Soviet communist leaders and outstanding personalities.

Zhukov won the battle of Stalingrad, lifted the siege of Leningrad and seized Berlin, and most Soviet victories in world war two were connected with his name. After the war he became the Soviet defence minister and member of the ruling Politburo of the Communist Party.

It was he who actually led the arrest of Lavrenty Beria, head of the secret police and a close associate of Joseph Stalin, after the dictator died.

He supported Nikita Khrushchev when the communist leadership tried to oust him in June 1957, however Khrushchev, who feared the popularity of Zhukov, dismissed him from the post of the defence minister and Politburo member in the same year when the latter was on a visit in Yugoslavia.

Zhukov died in 1974.

Galazov Sworn In as North Ossetian President

LD2601133594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanaev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 26 TASS—The inauguration of Akhsarbek Galazov, first president of North Ossetia, took place today.

Putting his hand on the Constitution, the popularly elected president made a vow in the Russian and Ossetian languages: "When assuming the office of president of the Republic of North Ossetia, I swear to observe the Constitution, the laws of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of North Ossetia, to protect its statehood and territorial integrity, to respect and guarantee human rights, to ensure lawful interests of the multinational people of the Republic of North Ossetia, to promote their prosperity and wellbeing, to fulfil conscientiously the tasks I have been entrusted with."

Sergey Filatov, chief of staff of the Russian president's administration, who attended the ceremony, congratulated Galazov on assuming the office of president on behalf of President Yeltsin. He stressed that Galazov's election was a victory of the democratic forces of the

republic. There is no doubt that Russia's revival is inseparably connected with the wellbeing of its regions. We should all work for peace and accord.

In his final address Akhsarbek Galazov cordially thanked all participants in the ceremony for their warm congratulations. "North Ossetia is a component part of Russia. Its multinational people cannot imagine their development in isolation from other republics, territories and regions of the northern Caucasus, from Russia. It is ready for political, economic and cultural cooperation with all areas of Russia and the Caucasus," he said.

Yeltsin Congratulates Galazov

LD2601154594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 26 TASS—"On instructions from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, I warmly congratulate Akhsarbek Galazov with his taking office of president of the Republic of North Ossetia. I also congratulate the people who have such a leader." This was stated today in Vladikavkaz by Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the republic devoted to assuming office by the first president of the republic.

North Ossetia, Sergey Filatov stressed, has never suffered from anarchy. But it is necessary to change structures of power, this is the call of the time. The republic has been confidently carrying out democratic reforms against the background of social and political life in Russia.

Some republics, the head of Russian president's administration said, "believe that president is needed to protect the republic from the central power. This is an erroneous position. [The] president is necessary to become a connecting link between the center and the republic so that all our Russia lived as a single family".

I am sure, Sergey Filatov said, that the multinational people of North Ossetia "associate their revival with strong democratic power in the republic. This will help successfully resolve all complex problems in economics, political life and in the social sphere. What is more, this is possible with close interaction between all branches of power and the observance of the Constitution and Russian laws".

According to Sergey Filatov, Boris Yeltsin asked to convey that he would render all-round support both to the president and the people of North Ossetia.

Yeltsin Dismisses Omsk Head for Exceeding Authority

LD2601175294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict on relieving Yuriy Shokhet from his duties as the head of

administration of the city of Omsk. The edict states that Shokhet has repeatedly committed actions aimed at destabilizing the situation in the city and has overstepped his limits of authority on numerous occasions.

Ingushetia Seeks To Retain Federation Status

*MK2601143094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
26 Jan 94 p 2*

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Nazran—Speaking on local TV, Murat Keligov, adviser to the Ingushetia president, stated that the republic's future constitution "must record an unequivocal provision" that it is part of the Russian Federation. The future fundamental law should reflect Ingushetia's sovereignty and its struggle, "exclusively by political means," to ensure the return of the territory of Prigorodnyy Rayon, which now belongs to North Ossetia.

Khabarovsk To Hold Back Payments to Federal Budget

LD2701121094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] In view of serious financial problems, Khabarovsk territory will not make any payments to the federal budget in January, Head of the Khabarovsk Territorial Administration Viktor Ishayev told Interfax.

He said that his territory experienced a dire energy crisis. Meanwhile, the federal debt to Khabarovsk territory for the manufactured products and for the seasonal transportation of loads to the northern districts of the Amur region amounts to billions of rubles, said Ishayev.

The situation is aggravated by the forced stoppage of local industrial enterprises which cannot make planned payments to the federal budget.

'Siberian Accord' Body Holds Session in Omsk

PM2601163394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition p 5

[Report by Margarita Ziangirova: "Siberian Accord Decides Not To Appeal to Government"]

[Text] The first session this year of the "Siberian Accord" Interregional Association's Coordinating Council was devoted to questions of industrial policy and conversion. This time the heads of 19 republics, autonomous okrugs, krays, and oblasts from the Siberian region met in Omsk.

Having exchanged opinions, the members of the coordinating council concluded that different territories share many common problems. In this sense the experience of one of the programs of "Siberian Accord"—Omsk conversion—is particularly noteworthy. Despite the fact that only one-third of the funds required to implement the program have been allocated, the conversion program has nonetheless commenced. And it is already possible to speak of practical results. These include the An-74—the first Omsk aircraft—a tractor, and television sets.

But, sadly, everything could end there. Because there is not enough money to start series production of the new articles and goods. It is in this area that a common solution must be found, along with an answer to the question of what should be done next. If the country needs this aircraft, it means that we should pool the financial interests of all the region's oblasts. The coordinating council members viewed this means of integrating funds on mutually advantageous terms as one of the options for developing industry. Admittedly, other proposals were made too—to appeal once again to the government to allocate money. But these suggestions were not supported by the majority, since there have already been many such appeals, but they have had little effect.

The conference participants adopted several fundamental decisions. These included the creation of new financial-industrial groups and an integrated data base, and so forth.

An organizational matter was addressed too. The new coordinating council chairman was elected. He is Valeriy Roshchulkin, deputy head of the Omsk Oblast Administration. The former council chairman—Leonid Polezhayev—has become the head of the interregional association.

International Affairs

Economic Minister Arrives in U.S. To Discuss Aid

WS2601141594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] In accordance with the agreement of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and U.S. President Bill Clinton, a Ukrainian Government delegation led by Economic Minister Roman Shpek has arrived in Washington. The delegation also includes Viktor Yushchenko, Ukrainian National Bank chairman, several deputy ministers, and a group of leading Ukrainian experts. The delegation was met at the airport by Oleh Bilorus, Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, and embassy officials. The delegation is scheduled to hold negotiations on a wide range of issues connected with bilateral economic cooperation. U.S. aid intended for stabilization, restoration, and radical reform of the Ukrainian economy based on the market principles will be central to the negotiations. The Ukrainian and U.S. delegations held a plenary meeting at the U.S. State Department where they discussed principles and priorities of economic cooperation between the two countries. The Ukrainian delegation also visited the U.S. Department of Agriculture where it met with Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy. Members of the Ukrainian delegation met with executives from the Foreign Private Investment Corporation and the U.S. Trade Development Agency.

New Parliament To Consider Moscow Declaration

LD2601182594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Moscow declaration on denuclearizing Ukraine signed by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States does not meet the republic's interests in full, deputy head of the international affairs commission Bogdan Goryn told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

In his words, the Supreme Soviet is now discussing the points that are out of line with the country's national interests.

In the meantime, Goryn says it is up to a new parliament, to be elected on March 27, to consider the ratification of the Moscow declaration because of inability by the Supreme Soviet to take a measured resolution on the issue. He said the parliament would adopt a resolution, but with some strings attached.

Last November, the parliament ratified the Start-I agreement and the Lisbon protocol, but conditioned that to economic aid and security guarantees to Ukraine. The Lisbon protocol was ratified without its article 5 which provided for Kiev's adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a nuclear free state.

President Kravchuk on Tuesday called on parliament to approve the protocol in full, arguing that the tripartite

Moscow agreement met all of the parliament's stipulations for ratifying the paper.

However, Goryn said the President's statement "goes beyond the framework of the parliamentary resolution."

Ambassador Says France Ready To Grant Security Guarantees

LD2601220494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk has received Michel-Yves Peissik, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Ukraine. Issues on the further development of Ukrainian-French relations and the participation of the two states in the world processes were discussed during the conversation, which was held in an atmosphere of an open exchange of opinions and mutual understanding. The ambassador said that, in France, they highly assess the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States concerning nuclear disarmament. France is ready to grant security guarantees to Ukraine.

Vice Premier on Economic Union With Russia

LD2601192894 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 1506 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 Jan—During a conversation with journalists, Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk said that he does not rule out an economic union with Russia in the near future. Mr. Landyk also gave a negative assessment of the role of the former government of Russia, blaming Gaydar and Fedorov for attempts to crush Ukraine economically. "Possibly, the new appointments will benefit Ukraine," he said. He also said that the government will continue to provide credit for agriculture, "because one can live if there is something to eat." In the opinion of Valentyn Landyk, the crediting of agriculture will not lead to a new emission of currency; the government will not allow that to happen. The money owed by commercial banks to the National Bank of Ukraine could become a source of credit. The problems of credit do not only depend on the government. We are holding talks toward that end with the National Bank of Ukraine, Landyk stated. For example, in the first quarter alone the Bank "Ukrayina" has to return 2.5 trillion coupons. The overall debt for the credits granted by the National Bank is [words indistinct]. The debtors are mostly banks and enterprises and, of course, the debts of the countryside which, in the opinion of Landyk, could be paid off with grain. The deputy prime minister said: "We are in favor of reform and liberalization; however, not everything should be 'let go'. Regulation is still necessary."

Replacement Troops Leave for Sarajevo

LD2601213294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] A transport aircraft with a group of Odessa military district troops took off from Nikolayev for Sarajevo. This is a second planeload of servicemen who will replace their comrades in the UN peace-keeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A spokesman for the Odessa military district told INTERFAX- Ukraine that a total of four such flights would be flown. Ukrainian women medics are flying for the first time to Sarajevo.

National Affairs

Deputies Vote on Referendum, Other Matters

LD2601150094 Kiev UNIAK in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 Jan—At the ninth session of Ukraine's Supreme Council, deputies continued debating the issue of holding an all-Ukrainian referendum on the basic constitutional provisions: on the organizing of state power and self-government in Ukraine. People's deputy Leopold Taburyansky proposed to do everything possible to prevent the parliamentary and presidential elections from being held.

The issue of verifying the activities of the "Blasko" concern was put on the agenda. A draft resolution on this issue consisting of 10 points was distributed to deputies. According to Point 5 of the resolution, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice have been instructed to draw up an inventory of all accounts, stocks of materials and capital equipment, and "Blasko's" credit and commercial agreements by 1 May. Point 7 recommends that the Ukrainian president examine the issue of removing Transport Minister Klympush and "Blasko" chairman Kudyukin from their posts.

Eighty-one deputies voted in favor of holding an all-Ukrainian referendum. The Supreme Council resolved to instruct the standing commission for issues of legislation and legality and the commission for issues of the activity of local councils and local self-government, along with the participation of members of the constitutional commission, to prepare a draft document on the constitutional principles of organizing power in Ukraine and to submit it for the Supreme Council's consideration within two days.

Deputies examined a draft resolution on the state privatization program submitted by the commission for issues of economic reform and management of the national economy. No decision was taken on this draft. Deputies passed a Ukrainian law on introducing changes and additions to some legislative acts on questions of leasing relations:

1. to recognize that Articles 2 and 4 of the Cabinet of Ministers decree dated 15 January 1992 No. 9-92 "on the additional regulation of leasing relations" and Subclause "D" of Article 9 of the Cabinet of Ministers decree dated 20 May 1993 "on privatizing whole property complexes of state enterprises and their structural subsections that are being leased, are not longer valid.

2. to supplement Article 21, Point 6, of the Ukrainian law on privatizing the property of state enterprises with the following: "part of the property that is being privatized at the expense of citizens' privatized funds cannot be less than 70 percent of the value for any facility, regardless of the method of privatization, apart from facilities that are being privatized according to the established procedure for freely convertible currency. 3. The law comes into force from the date of publication.

Commenting on the adopted law, Viktor Pynzenyk said that this law in actual fact entails introduction of the collective farm system into Ukraine's economy and deputy Volodymyr Pylypchuk mentioned that the law creates both the financial and economic preconditions for the development of separatism in Ukraine.

Supreme Council Approves Privatization Program

LD2601183994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] By a majority of 245 votes out of 440, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet today approved the draft resolution "On the state program for privatization in 1994." Only 34 votes were cast against the program.

According to the program, a total of 20,000 small businesses, 1,400 unfinished construction projects and 8,000 medium and major industries will be privatized in 1994.

As a result, Ukraine's private sector will amount to 28% of the country's economy. The state will receive over 21 Tn [Trillion] karbovantsy and over \$230 Mn.

The properties of state bodies, National Space Agency, TV and radio broadcasting centers, publishers' and port facilities are not subject to privatization.

The chairman of the state privatization fund, Vladimir Pryadko, did not rule out that the adoption of the privatization program on the eve of the future parliamentary elections scheduled for March 27 was a measure of political character. In his opinion, "the Supreme Soviet's conservative nature hampered the process of privatization in the republic."

UNA Accuses Kravchuk of 'High Treason' Over Nuclear Issue

AU2601141094 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Commentary by Ihor Nedyukha, candidate of technological sciences: "Once Again About the "Shield" and "Sword"]

[Text] According to the press, the Ukrainian Nationalist Assembly [UNA] has sent the chairman of Ukraine's Security Service, Ye. Marchuk, a statement (the text was supplied), containing a request to evaluate President L. Kravchuk's activity during the negotiations with the presidents of the United States and Russia on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. This statement, in fact, accuses the Ukrainian president of violations of the law to the extent of high treason.

However, the impression arises that the UNA leadership had not read Marchuk in HOLOS UKRAYINY 12 December 1992 where he insisted on the expediency of Ukraine's staying under the "nuclear shield of Russia," in other words, on the current policy of the total nuclear disarmament of Ukraine.

For that reason, I find it inappropriate to demand that Marchuk does the evaluation. This conclusion not only applies to the UNA appeal, but also to the analogous statement by the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party [UKRP].

The validity of the above interpretation is confirmed, at least, by the fact that the transfer to Russia of the "Sword"—the tactical nuclear weapons—is known to have been completed on the night of 5 and 6 May 1992.

It remains to be hoped that opponents of the Ukrainian president in the ranks of the UNA and UKRP will also agree that the same people must be among those who have planned and those who are implementing the measures for withdrawing the entire "Sword" and "Shield" (strategic nuclear weapons) complex from Ukraine.

Historian Backs Nuclear Status of Republic

WS2701081594 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 6 Jan 94 p 2

[Article by Professor Vasyl Tarasenko: "Ukraine Became Proprietor of Nuclear Weapons Much Earlier Than Great Britain, France, or China; Therefore, Ukraine Enjoys Full Rights of a Nuclear Power"]

[Text] Ukraine is constantly experiencing high pressure from different parties aimed at forcing Ukraine to eliminate its nuclear weapons. Economic, political, and financial pressure is followed by constant threats of increasing this pressure, though the history and the essence of this nuclear issue is well-known both in the CIS and the international community.

The reaction of public and state structures to this blackmail is diverse. A certain part, as the Supreme Council has stated, is ready to surrender to the domestic and foreign pro-imperial forces, which demand the elimination of nuclear weapons by Ukraine, while the supporters of the absolute independence of Ukraine refuse to eliminate nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory. This part of the public cannot ignore the sad lessons from the history of Ukraine and the lessons connected with the

role of nuclear weapons in the domestic and foreign policy of the imperial elite of the former USSR.

The international community knows that the leadership of the erstwhile USSR regarded the nuclear weapons as their strategic force, as effective pressure and their trump card in their expansionist foreign policy. Political and military structures, which existed in the USSR, specified the character of relations between the empire and the Republic of Ukraine. The empire used Ukraine's potential and suppressed its tiny sprouts of democracy, persecuted the tendencies for the revival of the national culture, and threatened all the attempts to gain autonomy, saying nothing about the creation of an independent state; it depressed Ukraine both morally and physically with the help of penitentiaries, working camps, forced hunger, and the murdering of the cream of Ukrainian humanitarian and scientific-technical intelligentsia.

Have not you heard threats and claims from Moscow—the capital of the Russian Federation—to divide Ukraine or to liquidate its independence along with demands to do away with Ukrainian national-democratic forces? Does not the notorious decision of the Russian legislature from 9 June 1993 repeat the black sides of Ukrainian history? Most importantly, this decision was adopted practically unanimously with seven abstentions and three rejections. Not only well-known chauvinists and supporters of the revival of the empire voted against it, but also the deputies who consider themselves democrats. In my mind, a certain part of the Ukrainian population, which has an ironical attitude toward this decree, is making a terrible mistake. The fact that this decree on Sevastopol was not implemented today means that it will be implemented tomorrow.

We should not ignore the fact that tactical nuclear weapons, withdrawn to Russia, have not been destroyed but have been carefully stored. In the midst of all these frightening circumstances, Ukraine is forced to repeat the same actions with its strategic nuclear weapons.

It seems to me that the high Ukrainian authorities differ in opinion on this issue. Otherwise, how could you interpret the 17 August 1993 statement of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev during his visit to Sweden on the fact that in several days, Russia and Ukraine are going to sign an agreement on the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of Ukraine. In turn, our former Foreign Minister K. Morozov negatively commented on Kozyrev's statement and refuted it. Briefly, Ukrainian Foreign Minister A. Zlenko issued his statement refuting Morozov's commentary. Therefore, my opinion on the lack of unanimity in the Ukrainian Government has a strong footing.

However, currently, only nuclear weapons can guarantee the security and independence of Ukraine. We should not be so naive and shortsighted as to take seriously the promises of the United States to be our guarantor of

independence because recent years have demonstrated a real price of such "guarantees."

In addition, the issue is being discussed in a topsy-turvy fashion. The statement, which says that Ukraine, by refusing to eliminate its nuclear weapons, becomes an illegal nuclear power and promotes the proliferation of nuclear weapons, is ungrounded. Or, perhaps, you can compare Ukraine with the North Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq which have no status of being a nuclear state but wish to gain it. In reality, Ukraine, as a sovereign republic within the USSR, became proprietor of nuclear weapons much earlier than Great Britain, France, or China, because it became a nuclear state simultaneously with the USSR. From the very beginning of its existence as a nuclear state, Ukraine has been and is a sovereign subject of the international community. Indisputable facts prove this concept. For example, Ukraine participated in the San Francisco Conference in 1945 and it signed the UN Statute. In addition, Ukraine has also signed the peaceful post-war agreements with Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, and Romania....

Ukraine, along with Great Britain, the United States, France, and other countries, is a member of numerous international organizations. Twice, it was elected a UN Security Council member. Moreover, the Russian Federation has never had such international prestige. Therefore, the legal international status of Ukraine after World War II has been similar to that of other independent states.

I would like to add one more fact. Ukraine has suffered materially, financially, and ecologically during the process of the creation of the USSR nuclear missile potential. Most of these nuclear weapons were produced on the territory of Ukraine at Ukrainian factories, and by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian workers, engineers, and researchers. A considerable amount of these nuclear weapons were stored in Ukrainian territory. All this gives Ukraine the right to say that it has been and is a nuclear power, along with Russia, and the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory have been, from the very beginning, the property of the Ukrainian state, though the imperial circles of the former USSR cynically ignored Ukraine's international legal status by making it a colony, while its military potential with nuclear missiles was considered to be the USSR's property.

These circumstances give no right either to Western or to Eastern countries to demand that Ukrainian nuclear weapons be eliminated. According to international law, Ukraine could demand that the United States, the Russian Federation, Great Britain, France, and China, simultaneously with Ukraine, eliminate their nuclear weapons. Therefore, both West and East should realize a certain reality: The existence of Ukraine as a nuclear state has not upset the balance of power in the world; the formal appearance of Ukraine on the list of nuclear states has not added any additional units of weapons on the international arena. In fact, everything has remained without any changes. Political tricks will amount to

nothing. West and East should realize that they can discuss the destiny of Ukrainian nuclear weapons only during the talks with other nuclear states, among which Ukraine will be a full-fledged member.

Defense Ministry Reports Progress in CFE Reduction

AU2601123594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "There Will Be Much Scrap Metal"]

[Text] As reported by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, in accordance with the agreement on conventional armed forces in Europe, Ukraine is further reducing its own weapons arsenals. During the first stage, which ended on 17 November 1993, 603 tanks, 630 armored combat vehicles, and 175 aircraft and helicopters were destroyed. The second stage will end in November 1994. Over this period of time, it is planned to destroy more than 600 tanks and more than 300 armored combat vehicles.

The reduction of the numerical strength of Ukraine's Armed Forces is continuing. In accordance with the Supreme Council decision, by the end of 1995, we will have 450,000 servicemen.

Meeting on Securing Conditions for Missile, Space Research

LD2601190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 26 Jan 94

[by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 26 TASS—A session of the Ukrainian National Committee for Disarmament has considered specific ways to secure external conditions for implementing Ukraine's national missile and space research programme.

The participants in the session discussed a number of problems related to Ukraine's possible joining the system of international control over missile technologies.

Presidential Power Conceded To Counter 'Crimean Fever'

PM2601153194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 2

[Olga Musafirova report: "Political Terror: Crimean Carnage"]

[Text] Kiev—As the newspapers have previously said, every day brings us closer to the elections. We have as a rule lived to see elections and witness the triumph of true people's power. Music plays, beer flows from buffets at polling stations, women hastily line up for candy, and the

candidates' families say nothing apart from that the time has come for these people to defend the interests of the masses.

Today a deputy's career is becoming more and more dangerous.

In this respect the Crimea and the events occurring on the peninsula depict, as it were, in miniature the picture of "Ukraine. Parliamentary Elections. March 1994." For two years there have been promises to turn the Crimea into a hot spot, a new Karabakh. It was predicted that the division of the Black Sea Fleet would be a destabilizing factor. Or that Crimean Tatar expansion would disturb the peace. But it was an event sanctified by the republic's legislation that proved the last straw. The Crimea decided to declare its own president. To be more accurate, prominent political forces began dividing up spheres of influence in what is indeed a prime piece of land, strategically important by no means because of some rusty old tubs known as a fleet.

Official Kiev tumultuously applauded the start of the campaign. However, this could have been done with the idea of warning "president number one"—Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, who had dared too often to take a special, Crimean view on a number of state issues. When it became clear that the Crimea under the tricolor of the Republic Movement or the Russian Party was indeed running the risk of steaming toward Russia, Bagrov's victory should have been ensured at any price. Or there should at least be a return to the starting positions and the elections ruled invalid. But a new phenomenon put in an appearance: The Crimea was suddenly swamped by hitherto unheard-of waves of banditry verging on political terrorism. The militia generally either lost the criminals' trail or arrived too late. In a short period the chief medics at the "Sea Surf" and "Russia" sanatoriums died, along with the head of a council of ministers directorate, the director of the Kerch iron ore combine, the leader of the National Movement of Crimean Tatars, and the head of the Black Sea Fleet Press Center. Strangers attacked the parliament's headquarters, fired shots at the office window of Leonid Grach, leader of the Crimean Communists, and, to cap it all, carried out the carnage with no quarter for women or children (I am talking about the murder of Nikolay Bagrov's economic adviser, Crimean Supreme Soviet People's Deputy Iskander Mamedov, two of his guards, and the wounding of 10 people). The tragedies were not consistently linked, but it all finally led a dead-scared Joe Public to yell: "Enough! Enough!"

However, the situation has been blocked by another means also. Immediately after it opened, the ninth session of the Ukrainian parliament promptly amended Article 114 of the Constitution. The Ukrainian president now has a basis for rescinding acts adopted by the cabinet of ministers and central organs of power, and similar decisions by Crimea's leadership structures, if he

finds them at variance with Ukraine's fundamental or other laws or with his own edicts.

Rukh's central leadership was one of the first to issue a statement regarding the inadmissibility of presidential elections in the Crimea. Moreover, the document indicated that the actual course of the campaign is dangerously hotting up the sociopolitical atmosphere on the peninsula. Events soon showed that active participation in the quite legitimate Ukrainian Supreme Council election campaign that has just begun may also lead to symptoms of "Crimean fever" (at least for the opposition). During the night of 15-16 January two strange men tried to break into the Rukh Secretariat after hitting the janitor on the head with a pistol. A little later it emerged that Secretariat leader Mikhail Boychishin had disappeared....

The day before the parliamentary session the president's representatives in the localities and representatives of soviets at all levels met in the Supreme Council conference room. Nomenklatura factions squabbled among themselves, but they were unable to determine which was the more senior in the face of the coming, unpredictable elections, so they tried to reach a compromise by supraconstitutional but peaceful means. They adopted a unique draft law on power and self-government in Ukraine.

In the future Ukraine will operate solely as a presidential republic.

Crimean Tatar Assembly Statement Condemns Violence

MK2601140094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Crimea"]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Crimean Tatar People's Assembly is at an end. Assembly Chairman Mustafa Dzhemilev, his deputy Rifat Chubarov, and other Assembly members said in their addresses that in the series of acts of violence that is gaining momentum in Crimea, the assassination of Iskandar Mamedov is not the first act directed against the Crimean Tatars. All these events, says the Assembly statement made in connection with the escalation of violence in Crimea, attest to the efforts by certain political forces to destabilize the situation by inveigling Crimean Tatars into a wide-scale conflict. The Assembly of the Crimean Tatar people, which rejects violence in solving any questions, believes: "In the situation that has taken shape, measures should be immediately taken to resolutely cut short actions that threaten peace and the fragile calm in Crimea." It is necessary, in the Assembly's opinion, to stop crime in Crimea, which has appreciably grown owing to the worsened political situation in the course of the elections for Crimea's president and the preparations for the elections for a new Supreme Soviet.

The Assembly finds it necessary to take measures to preserve peace and accord on the peninsula. The statement says that a special investigation group should be created on a first-priority basis in Ukraine's prosecutor's office to carry out a thorough and objective investigation into all acts of violence and terror in Crimea. The Assembly demands that the Supreme Soviets of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea should "examine and bring into line the provisions of the Republic of Crimea's constitution with the existing legislation of Ukraine and with the requirements of the trilateral agreement between the United States, Russia, and Ukraine on nuclear disarmament and mutual security guarantees."

Kravchuk Meets With Crimean Deputies

*LD2701013594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1509 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Kiev—As a UNIAN correspondent learned from circles close to the Ukrainian president, on 24 January Leonid Kravchuk received four people's deputies of Ukraine from the Crimea Republic: Anatoliy Matiyko, Vitaliy Reva, Volodymyr Sevastyanov, and Volodymyr Terekhov. The meeting, which lasted more than an hour, took place at the initiative of People's Deputies of Ukraine Volodymyr Terekhov and Serhiy Tsekov, ardent supporters of Yuriy Myeshkov, the winner in the first round of the presidential election in the Crimea. In the opinion of one of the meeting's participants, who wished to remain anonymous, the talk with President Kravchuk was not open in all respects, because the plans of the Myeshkov supporters did not envisage the presence at the meeting of other Crimean politicians, the political opponents to the Republican Movement of the Crimea (RRK).

Volodymyr Terekhov wanted to know whether Kiev was planning to use force against the RRK and when Ukraine would begin to combat terrorism in the Crimea. To the first question, Leonid Kravchuk said no. As far as the second question was concerned, he said the Ukrainian procuracy was already taking necessary measures but that was a problem of power not only in Kiev, but in Simferopol as well. The Ukrainian president said he had nothing against Yuriy Myeshkov personally or against the movement he heads. The president, however, stressed that all the citizens and political forces in Ukraine, the Crimea included, should abide by the laws of Ukraine. Leonid Kravchuk spoke out against granting dual citizenship to the residents of the peninsula.

In the opinion of a meeting participant who was interviewed by the UNIAN correspondent, Kravchuk is well informed about everything happening in the Crimea and in the entourage of Myeshkov in particular. The people's

deputy also believes that the holding of the meeting was due, first and foremost, to the uncertainty of Myeshkov and his team in their own strength. "They did not want to win at the presidential election, because they were not ready for this and now they do not know what to do with this." He admitted that if Crimean residents learn about the latest maneuvers of Myeshkov and his supporters, about their refusal from the election promises (a referendum on the status of the Crimea, secession from Ukraine, etc.) the second round of the election scheduled for 30 January may fail to take place.

Commission Finds Crimean Presidential Elections Illegal

*LD2701093994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0831 GMT
27 Jan 94*

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that a session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's Legislation and Legality Commission on 26 January found that the presidential elections in the Republic of the Crimea, with their second round planned for 30 January, did not conform to Ukrainian law. The commission intends to make this conclusion known to parliament in the very near future.

Fired Crimean Official Not To Leave Political Arena

*AU2701110094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
25 Jan 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "I. Yermakov's News Conference"]

[Text] Ivan Yermakov, dismissed from his post of Ukrainian presidential representative in Sevastopol, stated at the news conference that he was not going to leave the political arena and that, in his opinion, "Leonid Kravchuk did not do the right thing" when he signed the edict on his dismissal. "This should not have been done with such a difficult situation prevailing in the Crimea," said Yermakov. He pointed out that he will not run for the Ukrainian Supreme Council, but will be a candidate for deputy of the Crimean Supreme Council. He also promised that he would return to his post, no matter what it is called (his dream is to become mayor of Sevastopol). Yermakov stated that he was going to create a Slavic Christian Party that will also be open to Muslims, Judaists, and all other people irrespective of their nationality. He focused on the fact that, over the period of his work as Ukrainian presidential representative in Sevastopol, he had to go through quite a number of unpleasant moments and even hours. In particular, it was when he had to hoist the Ukrainian state flag at the building of the city state administration, since "the colors of that flag do not appeal to me."

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Ousts Shushkevich as Chairman

WS2701085394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 0800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has supported, by a majority of votes, the recalling of Stanislav Shushkevich from the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. The formal reason for this recall was the parliamentary debate which intended to reveal the violations of law in the activities of commercial structures at state and local government bodies. According to the adopted resolution, Shushkevich is blamed for failing to take measures against corruption, a lack of control over the work of law enforcement bodies, and manifested personal immorality.

The same charges with regard to Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich were treated by the majority of the people's deputies as insignificant; in secret balloting, they voted against his dismissal. Half an hour ago, the Supreme Soviet began its regular plenary session. People's deputies are discussing the miscellaneous matters on the agenda.

Voting Results Announced

WS2601201594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1918 GMT 26 Jan 94

["Text" of protocol on results of Supreme Soviet vote to recall Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, announced at the evening session in Minsk by People's Deputy Ivan Bambiza, head of the vote-counting committee—live]

[Text] Protocol No. 3 of the session of the vote-counting committee on the secret ballot vote to recall Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich and to dismiss Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich from the post of Belarusian Council of Ministers chairman, dated 26 January 1994. Present were: Ivan Bambiza, chairman of the vote-counting committee; committee secretary Nikolay Harelik; members of the counting committee—Alyaksandr Belyy, Olga Lukovnich, Nikolay Zhuravlev, Alyaksandr Kuzmenkov, Alyaksandr Kryuchkov, Frants Minkov, Vitaliy Malashko, Uladzimir Novikaw, Zinaida Penkova, Viktor Rusak, and Viktor Fedarenka. The agenda of the session: On the results of the secret ballot vote to recall Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich and dismiss Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich from the post of Belarusian Council of Ministers chairman.

1. The vote-counting committee conducted the vote count on the secret ballot to recall Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich.

To conduct the vote, peoples deputies were given 290 ballots. After unsealing the boxes, 250 ballots were discovered, including five invalid ballots.

The votes were distributed as follows:

For recalling Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich from the post of Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman, 209 votes were cast.

Against—36 votes.

2. The vote-counting committee conducted the vote count on the secret ballot to discharge Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich from the post of Belarusian Council of Ministers chairman.

To conduct the vote, peoples deputies were given 290 ballots. After unsealing the boxes, 281 ballots were discovered, including five invalid ballots.

The votes were distributed as follows:

For discharging Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich from the post of Belarusian Supreme Council chairman, 101 votes were cast.

Against—175 votes.

Signatures of the committee's chairman, secretary, and members [appear at the bottom of the protocol].

Deputies To Discuss Candidates

WS2701122694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1100 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The morning proceedings of the Belarusian parliament session have begun with miscellaneous matters on the agenda. The people's deputies addressed the problems of the Belarusian Peasant Party and the Minsk Tractor Factory, and honored the memory of writer Ales Adamovich by a minute of silence. Then it was resolved to hold necessary consultations to select candidates for the post of the Supreme Soviet chairman. However, even after a two-hour break in the proceedings, during which the sessions of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and parliamentary factions took place, the people's deputies deemed this issue to be unprepared for broad discussion. They decided to fully devote today's proceedings in commissions and deputy factions to the nomination of candidates for the post of the Supreme Soviet chairman. This issue is expected to be discussed at the plenary session tomorrow.

Shushkevich Offered Head of CIS Parliamentary Assembly

LD2701101194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226
GMT 27 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk January 27 TASS—Vladimir Shumeyko, the speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, offered Stanislav Shushkevich, who was removed from the post of the chairman of the Belarusian parliament on Wednesday, to head the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, it was learned here from an anonymous source close to Shushkevich.

The offer was made on Thursday morning by telephone. This post was previously held by Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was jailed after the October opposition rebellion in Moscow.

Shumeyko informed Shushkevich that the offer was agreed with the heads of CIS parliaments. It is worth recalling in this connection that Shushkevich was a co-founder of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) alongside with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk.

BELINFORM reported also with reference to the press service of the Belarus Supreme Soviet that Shushkevich would not attend a meeting of the Belarus parliament today. He is expected to hold a press conference here on Monday.

Opposition Leader on Yegorov, Shirkovskiy Dismissals

WS2601154794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1323 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Unattributed report: "News Conference of the Belarusian Popular Front Opposition"]

[Text] On 26 January, the Belarusian Popular Front opposition in the Supreme Soviet held a news conference to address yesterday's events in the Supreme Soviet—the dismissal of Interior Minister Vladimir Yegorov and KGB Chairman Eduard Shirkovskiy. The leader of the Belarusian Popular Movement parliamentary opposition, Zyanon Paznyak, stated that the main reason for dismissing them were the facts that they knew about corruption and the involvement of government officials and leaders in that corruption; moreover, they were uncompromising on this issue. Second, there are political forces at work which have close connections with imperial Russian circles, including special services and the Russian counterintelligence service, according to KGB Chairman Eduard Shirkovskiy's statement during the behind-closed-door proceedings. Zyanon Paznyak also touched upon the personal qualities of the dismissed officials. Thus, according to the oppositional leader, thanks to Vladimir Yegorov, there was no bloodshed in Belarus over the last four years. Both Vladimir Yegorov and Eduard Shirkovskiy have been trying, while adhering to the law, to act in line with Belarusian interests, which was much to the dismay of the Council of Ministers.

Economic Union With Russia Seen as Necessary Step

WS2401192294 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Vyera Polyakova under the "Current Comment" rubric: "Will Russia Choose Belarus?"]

[Text] *All of us—both those supporting unification and those objected to it—are in a state of tense suspense: What results will January 1994 bring? We are truly facing a critical moment right now.*

The Belarusian leadership sees a stable economic union with Russia and the unification of currency systems as the only means for protecting our sovereignty and overcoming the protracted crisis. However, as known, this approach is not shared by all political circles. A feeling of relief will supposedly be experienced by producers and entrepreneurs, if by anybody.

Frankly speaking, economists and financiers think that the joining of the common ruble zone by Belarus is inevitable. Of course, it would have been much better to make such a move two years ago—the cost would have been far lower. Or, perhaps, to adopt the direction of Baltic states. Unfortunately, the opportunity was missed. Excepting the economic union with Russia, we are rapidly and firmly following the path which Ukraine is desperately trying to abandon. A persistent general economic crisis without hope or prospects brings death to any country. We will be able to keep ourselves in the swim at the expense of high-tech production—so-called "brain" work—for about a year or two. However, if highly skilled specialists, depressed by petty salaries, leave their labs and workshops in search of better-paying places under the sun, the world will embrace yet another "banana republic." Then it will be impossible for Belarus to avoid the penetration and expansion of Russian capital.

Nobody needs to be reminded that Belarus' interests are, first of all and above all, in the East, in Russia, in other CIS countries. The experience of our independence demonstrates that we are not welcome guests in the West. "Rotting" continental and transatlantic businessmen rate Belarus as last in their investments priorities because of our allegedly pro-communist regime and the absolute lack of reform. We must face the truth: Our Republic is not rated high by Russia, either. This is testified to by the visit of the U.S. President; Bill Clinton's behind-closed-doors meeting with [opposition leader] Zyanon Paznyak also has its significance.

Economic union with Russia is a necessary step for us, but it is also a forced step. The Belarusian economy is on the brink of catastrophe. Taking into account world prices for Russian raw materials, customs duties, and our horrible tax policy, the Belarusian leadership—to rid itself of Russian pressure—has rushed toward integration with our "eastern brother," notwithstanding the fact that the economic union implies a limitation of political

sovereignty. Nonetheless, it is assumed that this will help Belarus overcome crises and move beyond its current standstill. The creation of a single ruble zone with a single legal tender—the Russian ruble—and, as a result, the implementation of rules and methods of the more liberal Russian tax system, as well as the widening of markets are the main roads to civilization.

Still, these are advancements on our behalf. What can we propose to Russia in return? An economy in crisis and ourselves—lock, stock, and barrel?! For Russia, the unification of currency systems is more of a political step than an economic one. Former Russian Prime Minister Gaidar has spoken out against this unification. We, just like that small boy with a dog on the well-known "Russia's Choice" poster, are not welcome.

Customs Head Views Cooperation Pact With U.S.

*WS2601183494 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in
Belarusian 20 Jan 94 p 1*

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Alyaksandr Lyushkevich under the "Facts and Comments" rubric: "Our Customs Will Cooperate"]

[Text] During Bill Clinton's visit to Minsk, the Government of the United States and the Republic of Belarus signed an agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance between their respective customs services. A BELINFORM correspondent has asked Hyenadz Shkurdz, chairman of the State Committee for Customs, to comment on this agreement.

"This is the first governmental agreement on cooperation of our customs service with one of its foreign counterparts. It will become effective 90 days after the date of signing.

"This document provides that the two sides will assist one another in preventing and investigating any violations of the law, which are within the competence of their customs services. According to the agreement, the sides will provide each other with all information concerning the imposition of custom duties and other taxes. It is also very important that the sides assist each other in providing customs services with modern equipment. This also includes personnel training and the exchange of information on the latest developments in 'customs' equipment. That is of the greatest importance for us right now. The agreement also provides for the exchange of experts."

Defense Minister, NATO Official View Cooperation

*LD2501184494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627
GMT 25 Jan 94*

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 25 TASS—Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Field Marshal Richard F. Vincent arrived here on Monday afternoon to meet Belarusian Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy for negotiations, the Belarusian Defence Ministry's Press Center reports.

The meeting discussed aspects of NATO-Belarusian cooperation, ways to fulfill the Partnership for Peace Program, possible Belarusian participation in the program and its progress towards non-nuclear neutral state with due account of European and world changes.

The NATO official praised Belarus for its loyalty to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the on-going reduction of materiel inherited from the former Soviet Army to the fixed limit. The sides considered possible NATO assistance to the implementation of Belarusian arms reduction program.

This morning Vincent was received by Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich and First Vice-Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich for *tete-a-tete* meetings.

Richard Vincent left the republic on the same day.

Armored Vehicles Dismantled Under CFE Commitments

*PM2701102994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1*

[Valeriy Kovalev report under "News" rubric: "Destroyers of Tanks Go into 'Battle'"]

[Text] Belarus is continuing conscientiously to fulfill its obligations under the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The next stage—the first in the new year—in the elimination of armored hardware has begun at the tank-repair plant in Borisov. It will last through 24 February. It is planned to cut up 92 tanks and approximately 50 infantry fighting vehicles for scrap metal and to re-equip them for use in the national economy. The work is being monitored by a group of NATO military inspectors.

Kazakhstan**Metallurgical Workers Demand Return to Ruble Zone**

PM2601160994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Strikes in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] The situation in Ust-Kamenogorsk has deteriorated. The oblast's metallurgical workers have held a big rally by way of an ultimatum and demanded that the region return to the ruble zone. Major metallurgical enterprises have no money in their accounts and workers have not been paid for five months. To date metallurgical workers are owed over 35 million tenges.

Ten enterprises are standing idle. And 15 are on the verge of bankruptcy. The number of unemployed in the republic has doubled.

ROK Ambassador Meets Vice President

LD2601170294 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Vice President Yerik Asanbayev on 25 January received Korean Ambassador to Kazakhstan Kim Chang-kon at the latter's request. During the conversation they dealt with prospects for developing economic and cultural cooperation between our countries.

Bilateral official relations at present, noted Yerik Asanbayev, are exemplary and effective. South Korean businessmen in a short period of time have initiated production of televisions in Almaty and refrigerators in Karaganda. However, the dynamism of cooperation must be raised, especially in the sphere of providing credits to Kazakhstan.

To support the recently introduced national currency and to ease the transfer to a market economy we need support from outside, stressed the vice president. The republic needs to gather a critical mass of credits for a structural transformation of the economy and introduction of new technology in development of minerals. He expressed the confidence that the South Korean side, which at one time promised to allocate \$350 million to Kazakhstan, will keep its word. Housing is built quickly and well in that country. To carry out the program of housing construction in our republic it is intended to make a close study of that experience in order to use it in action. Gratitude was expressed to the ambassador for humanitarian assistance to the value of 150,000 dollars, which had arrived that day in Almaty from Seoul.

Kim Chang-kon stated that he would exert every effort to strengthen friendly ties between the two countries, to improve economic links, and to attract businessmen from the Republic of Korea to Kazakhstan.

Tajikistan**Leaders Travel to Almaty To Discuss Debt Crisis**

PM2601161994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Heavy Debts"]

[Text] An eminent Tajikistani delegation led by E. Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Council, and A. Samadov, head of the republic's government, arrived in Almaty yesterday.

In view of the state of crisis in the Tajikistan economy local experts are predicting that Tajikistan's negative trade balance with the Republic of Kazakhstan could run to 190 billion rubles a year.

More Refugees Return From Afghanistan

LD2701130494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] According to a report of the Department of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one more group of Tajik refugees returned home from the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Five hundred and eighty one more refugees [words indistinct] have returned to their permanent places of residence in Shaartuzskiy, Kabodiyonskiy, and Dzilikulskiy Rayons.

Government Troops Killed in Shurabadskiy Rayon

LD2601150294 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0900 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] An armed clash took place yesterday in Shurabadskiy Rayon of Kulyab Oblast between the Tajik Government troops and a detachment of the Islamic Rebirth Party.

According to the report of our correspondent, quoting the military sources of the Islamic Rebirth Party, nine fighters of the communist regime were killed in this clash, which took place near the village of Yol.

U.S. Ambassador Offers Economic Cooperation

LD2601143194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Today, Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, received U.S. Ambassador Stanley Escudero. In the course of the meeting, Escudero passed on the friendly greetings from American leaders to Imamali Rakhmanov and said that the United States is ready to cooperate with Tajikistan in all branches of the national economy.

Armenia

'Fierce Battles' in Karabakh; Losses Reported

NC2601161494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] An extremely tense situation exists at the Karabakh battlefronts. Fierce battles are continuing along almost all the front lines.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army headquarters reported that Azerbaijani troops resumed the offensive on the southern and southeastern sector of the battlefront this morning. By midday the Karabakh formations were still managing to halt the enemy's attacks.

A large attack is also expected on the other sectors of the front. This is confirmed by reconnaissance data.

Positional battles are continuing in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. According to confirmed data, 70 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed and seven tanks were hit in this sector on 25 January. Four fighters were killed and 11 were injured on the Karabakh side.

The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported at 1100 that there has been relative calm in the border regions of Armenia.

Further Details

NC2601163394 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The situation in the areas of confrontation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] remains tense. The NKR Military Information Service has revealed that Azerbaijan's military forces renewed their attacks against the central areas in Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday morning. But the NKR defense units obstructed the attacks and inflicted many casualties on the enemy. According to reports received by 1030 yesterday, one Azerbaijani armored vehicle was hit.

Meanwhile, combat operations also took place in the northeast of the front line. Azerbaijan's military forces tried to penetrate the inner areas of Mardakertskiy and Kelbadzharskiy Rayons. The NKR forces stopped them. The clashes elsewhere on the front line took the form of positional fighting. Azerbaijan's aircraft tried to violate NKR airspace yesterday.

The NKR freedom fighters hit six enemy armored vehicles in the clashes in Mardakertskiy Rayon last night and destroyed two of them. The enemy units left the bodies of their dead colleagues and fled the battlefield.

The NKR Defense Headquarters has revealed that frequent clashes have recently been taking place between the Azerbaijani military forces and the Azerbaijani People's Front's armed groups.

Kozyrev Meetings With Both Sides Assessed

NC2601153394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0755 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Text] Last week Russia has made known again that it is ready to be a sole arbitrator in the Karabakh conflict. This fact was supported by two sequential meetings of Andrey Kozyrev with his Azerbaijan and Armenian colleagues. There are all reasons to think that the West has somewhat reduced its peaceful efforts in Nagorno-Karabakh after President Clinton's visit to Moscow. The details of talks held in the multi-storey building on Vosstanie Square remained behind the closed doors. Unexpected may be considered the participation in the summit of Arkadiy Gukasyan, the Nagorno-Karabakh foreign relations minister. He has received the invitation from Kozyrev on his way back from the former Yugoslavia to Stepanakert via Yerevan. By the available information, the Azerbaijani foreign minister Guseynov has remained not completely satisfied with results of his talks with Kozyrev. As told by TURAN news agency, he insisted on unconditioned withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan, having in mind the Karabakh territory as well. Galina Sidorova, his assistant, told that Guseynov expressed discontent with position of the CIS countries, particularly of Russia, which by his view "does not demonstrate adherence to principles in connection with Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan".

TURAN news agency has circulated a report, with reference to the "well-informed source in the Russian Federation Foreign Office", in which the tendencies of Yerevan are stated. According to these statement [as received], Armenia asks Russia to dispose Russian troops along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, which will make Azerbaijan-cut off Iran-be more agreeable. As refers to the post-war setup in the area of conflict, the same "informed source" has presented the Armenian model according to which Azerbaijan must provide a broad political autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh, present him Shusha city, and leave inviolable the humanitarian corridor connecting Karabakh with Armenia. The author of this project, according to TURAN, is the President Yeltsin's adviser, the well-known politologist Andranik Mhramyan. However Yerevan did not confirm the truth of this news.

In difference to Gasanov, the head of Armenian Foreign Affairs Department Vahan Papazyan thinks that the Moscow summit should be considered as a significant step on a way to prepare the cease-fire agreement. In his interview to NEGA news agency he has emphasized that it is necessary to resume the talks with Azerbaijan. Special concern, by his belief, should create the tendency to internationalize the conflict, since Afghan mujahedins and mercenaries from the former Soviet republics are being involved in the conflict, and arms concentration is increased. Papazyan has emphasized that the balanced approach of Russia to the conflict settlement is completely acceptable for Armenia since it agrees to the

documents adopted by the CSCE and approved by the UN Security Council. Russian side intended to organize the meeting between Gasanov and Papazyan, which however failed. Meanwhile, the official Yerevan has revealed restrained attitude to Moscow talks. It would be premature to bind special hopes with these talks, told SNARK one top official of the Armenian Foreign Office. The difficulty is, he explained, to make consistent the opposite positions of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan

Russian 'Source' on Armenian Troop Request

NC2601151094 Baku TURAN in English 1810 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Baku (January 25) TURAN—Armenia asked Russia to help in solving the problems regarding displacement of Russian troops at the borders of Azerbaijan with Iran. This problem was briefly discussed during the talks between Russian and Armenian Ministers of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev and Vahan Papazyan on January 20 in Moscow, a reliable source from Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

Yerevan believes, that "being cut off from Iran by a Russian buffer, Azerbaijan will be more complacent at the negotiation table, and at the fronts as well".

The same source informed, that "the Russian party has the impression, Armenian side is looking for a respite after the serious defeats it was incurred during the recent battles."

According to the plan, Azerbaijan is to give broad political autonomy to mountainous Karabakh, "to offer as a gift", Shusha to the Armenians and to work out a plan for "humanitarian corridors" from Armenia to mountainous Karabakh via the towns of Lachin and Kelbadzhar.

This plan of Andranik Mihranyan, Russian president's adviser also envisions the creation of a demilitarized buffer zone, along all the borders of mountainous Karabakh. The responsibility for administrative-legal control in the zone will be carried out by the Russian peace-making forces.

Representative of so-called RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Arkadiy Gukasyan, as a member of delegation from the Republic of Armenia was participating in negotiations with Kozyrev. However, according to the official report of Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev met Papazyan and Gukasyan separately.

Adviser Gulizade on Karabakh, Troop Pullout

NC2601213994 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziya Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Interview with Vafa Gulizade, state adviser on international affairs, by Beshir Sherifov; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sherifov] Moscow and Yerevan are reportedly continuing discussion of regional political problems. The Armenian side has asked Russia to reconsider the deployment of Russian troops on the Azerbaijani-Iranian border. What is your view on this issue?

[Gulizade] Moscow is not discussing regional problems only with Yerevan. It discussed them with Baku first. Before [Armenian Foreign Minister] Papazyan and [Karabakh Foreign Minister] Gukasyan met Kozyrev in Moscow, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov had already met and given an in-depth explanation of Azerbaijan's position to Kozyrev. During my meeting with Gasan Gasanov he told me that Kozyrev heard and understood all our positions.

We are here to discuss a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. I don't set great store by such press reports. Armenia has reportedly asked Russia to consider deploying Russian troops on the Azerbaijan-Iran border. Armenia can have no role in this issue. Azerbaijani troops are watching over and defending—they will defend—Azerbaijani borders.

[Sherifov] It is also being said that at these talks the view was expressed that Azerbaijan should accept giving broader political status to Nagorno-Karabakh and should even concede Shusha.

[Gulizade] On the issue of status, I can only say the following, which I have said before: Similar views were also published in the U.S. press to the effect that Armenia has suffered a political defeat in its struggle over Nagorno-Karabakh. Why? Because even if we consider the status of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKA-O], they can't achieve a broader political status than that. In other words, the NKA-O had a very broad political status. There can be no discussion about status. It is still very early. Therefore, first, Azerbaijani land must be liberated. No autonomy will ever be better than the autonomy that was. Shusha won't be conceded to them. Indeed, no Azerbaijani city will be conceded to them. I want to assure our television viewers and compatriots of this.

Sides Accuse Each Other of Launching Offensives

LD2701120494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Following a night lull, Azeri forces resumed offensive in the south and southeastern areas of the

Armenian-Azeri war zone, a spokesman for the Karabakh defense told Interfax. As of 10:30 Moscow time, Karabakh units were engaged in heavy fighting, repelling the enemy attack.

Stepanakert reports that a pitched battle is raging in the north of the Kelbajar District of Azerbaijan. In a successful counter attack the Karabakh forces have reportedly advanced several kilometers on the Omar mountain pass.

Meanwhile, an official of the Azeri Defense Ministry told Interfax that fighting was underway in the Mardakert District of Nagorno Karabakh, where the Armenian units were still trying to mount a large scale offensive on the town of Ter-Ter. The town was shelled during the night.

Baku reports that the Azeri units repelled all enemy attacks and knocked out one enemy tank and two armored personnel carriers.

Contradictory Reports on Fighting

LD2601131794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Controversial reports are coming from Baku and Stepanakert about the fighting in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

A spokesman for the Azeri Defence Ministry has said that units of the Azeri army yesterday held successful operations in the Kelbadzhar area of the republic. As a result, the spokesman said, the Kelbadzhar group of the Armenian army was forced to retreat to the Armenian-Azeri border, while Armenian units fighting in the Mardakert area of Karabakh were being cut off from supply bases in Armenia.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Karabakh defense army claims that there are no position changes in the Kelbadzhar area. The spokesman said that up to 70 Azeri servicemen were killed during hostilities in the area. Among the Karabakh casualties are four persons killed and 11 wounded.

The spokesman said that on Wednesday morning Azeri troops resumed the offensive in the south-east and southern sections of the front.

Armenians Strive To Retake Positions

NC2601195694 Baku TURAN in English 1738 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Baku (January 26) TURAN—Fighting in the northern sectors of the front in the vicinity of the city of Agdere (Mardakert) continues. According to information received by TURAN news agency in the executive apparatus of the Ter-Terskiy region, Armenian forces attempted to grasp the initiative. With this in mind, the Armenians launched an offensive this morning against positions the Azerbaijani forces retook yesterday in the vicinity of Agdere.

Fighting along the Kelbadzharskiy line of advance, where the Azeri units built concrete bunkers in the locations as they retake them.

Georgia

Deputy Prime Minister Reacts to Mass Killings

LD2601185294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] I shall familiarize you with a statement by Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili. With obvious instigation from Vladislav Ardzinba's fascist regime, the criminal and socioeconomic situation in Abkhazia has sharply exacerbated. It can be said with confidence that complex anarchy is reigning there. The law enforcement bodies fail completely to monitor the situation, let alone the repressions carried out against the remaining Georgian population. Abkhazians and the Russian speaking population—Russians, Armenians, Greeks, and others who are forced to leave the autonomous republic of Abkhazia and seek refuge somewhere else, are also alarmed.

In only the Ochamchire and Gali rayons over the last three months—October-December—about 40 Abkhaz combatants were killed in clashes between separate individuals and armed units over pillaged goods. On 10-11 January this year, almost a real war was waged between the Abkhaz population of the villages of Chlou and (Arasartikhi) in Ochamchire rayon. Famous people living in Abkhazia are falling victim to the lawlessness of Abkhaz combatants and mercenaries. The public was alarmed over the news of the beastly killing of Shitnik, the chief doctor of Sukhumi's ambulance service. Especially worrying are instances of the mass killing of people of various nationalities. The mercenary executioners Balov, Smetanin, and Krasnov set up an horrific slaughterhouse in the village of Odishi in Sukhumi rayon as a result of which about 30 people were killed, mostly of Greek nationality.

It is obvious that we are dealing with the genocide of the Greek population. Against this background, the populist statement by the Gudauta leader [Ardzinba] about the need for those Greeks who were evicted from Abkhazia in the 1940s to return to their homes can only be described as cynical. Drawing your attention to the above-mentioned atrocities, we call on the world community to strictly condemn the criminal acts committed by the Abkhaz combatants and mercenaries as well as their Gudauta patrons.

Ministry Cited on Abkhaz Shelling of Village

NC2601195794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1738 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Tbilisi, January 26 (SNARK)—Abkhazia shelled the Georgian village Lata, located in the Abkhazian Svanetia. SNARK was informed of the fact at the Press-Center Georgian Defence Ministry.

The representatives of the press-center familiarized journalists with a statement of the village's inhabitants, who demand the arrival of international observers.

Social Democrats for Rapprochement With Russia

LD2601173294 Moscow *ITAR-TASS* in English 1651 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Tbilisi January 26 TASS—The political council of the Georgian Social Democratic Party has called for rapprochement with Russia, "Georgia's natural great ally."

"This approach is the only chance for Georgia to preserve its integrity and independence," the council said in an appeal to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on Wednesday.

The Georgian leadership should admit that for various subjective reasons the social, economic, financial and credit policy of the government has failed. The severance of traditional ties caused by the sweeping disintegration of the Soviet Union has resulted in the collapse of whole industries in the republic, the appeal said.

Georgian Social Democrats disagree with the position of political organisations which oppose the rapprochement with Russia, "the only potential country whose powerful industry makes it a desired partner not only for us, but for more developed countries as well," the appeal said.

South Ossetian Leaders on Russo-Georgian Treaty

LD2701121394 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] A comprehensive Russo-Georgian treaty to be signed in Tbilisi in early February will make the situation in the Caucasus, as well as in South Ossetia, worse still, South Ossetian Prime Minister Rezo Khugayev told Interfax.

He recalled that Moscow had not agreed to sign such a treaty before Georgia resolved its differences with South Ossetia and Abkhazia by political means. Georgia, however, has not even started an equal political dialog with those republics, Khugayev thinks.

He believes that Russian support for an indivisible Georgia "will give a free hand to chauvinist forces in Tbilisi." He did not rule out the possibility that, once the treaty was signed, Georgia would resume military pressure on South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Lyudvig Chibirov, head of the South Ossetian parliament who also attended the interview, made it clear that the people of the republic would hardly agree even to a confederation within Georgia.

Shevardnadze Trip to France Viewed as 'Positive'

NC2601150594 Yerevan *SNARK* in English 0755 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] In Georgia the visit of Eduard Shevardnadze to France is estimated to be positive in the whole. Commenting the results of the Paris negotiations, Giso Gilieshvi, the chairman of the Committee for External Economic Relations, told the agreement on the investments protection is ready for signing. French capital will be invested in the extension of the Poti port. Besides, French specialists will take part in the Tbilisi-Baku railway reconstruction to create a safe Europe-Caucasus-Asia way. It is also supposed to create a joint French-Georgian Bank. Irakli Shenghelia, the leader of the Georgian Christian-Democratic Union, said France is the initiator of the European integration idea, and Georgia has to join this process. Besides, there was a necessity to examine the reaction on the Georgia's entrance in CIS. In all probability, E. Shevardnadze tried to clear up in Paris the attitude of France to the coming discussion of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict in the UN Security Council. On his return to Tbilisi the Georgian leader declared on a press-conference there was understanding of the necessity of the Georgia's entrance to CIS. "It was a right decision which should be acceptable for Georgia as well as for Europe and CIS", - said Shevardnadze. The agreement for Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid was signed during the visit.

Shevardnadze Views Domestic, Russian Issues

AU2601154894 Tbilisi *SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA* in Georgian 6 Jan 94 p 1,2

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze by Italian Radio Two in Tbilisi; date not given: "Europe and the Whole World Is Indebted to Shevardnadze"]

[Excerpts] A few days before the [Orthodox] New Year, a special edition of the Italian Radio Two information program "People and Facts—So We Can Know More" organized a live radio relay from Georgia, in which Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Parliament-head of state, participated. [passage omitted]

The program is introduced by Luca Livoni:

Today, we have a very important program. We will be linking up soon with Tbilisi, where we have our special correspondent Alessandro Cassieri. [passage omitted]

So, this morning Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] E. Shevardnadze will be asked many questions by the guests in the studio or by people with whom we have linked up on the telephone. These are Giorgio Napolitano, president of the Italian Parliament Chamber of Deputies, Senate President Giovanni Spanolini, Giuseppe Giacomazzo, deputy minister of foreign affairs, Stefano Silvestri, professor at the Center for International Relations, Raiuno director Demetrio Volcic, who was special correspondent in Moscow for many

years, and my colleagues Giuseppe Chiseri and Carlo Napoli from Radio Two's foreign department. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] First and foremost, I would like to greet Batonebi Napolitano, Spandolini, and all the radio listeners and express my gratitude to all the organizers of this broadcast. Regarding the situation that has taken shape in Georgia, it is very difficult. However, certain positive events did take place in 1993. These were the general consolidation of our people and the defeat of such destructive and semifascist forces as the supporters of the former president and their armed opposition against the authorities and the Georgian people. There existed the fundamental danger of the division of the nation, but this has been eliminated since the supporters of the ex-president were defeated politically, morally, and militarily. As for Abkhazia, almost more than one-half of the population of Abkhazia has been evacuated. Of the population of 500,000 in Abkhazia, 250,000 persecuted Georgians are now in different regions of Georgia. Tens of thousands of Georgians have been destroyed and shot simply because they were Georgians. Unfortunately, this problem cannot, as yet, be resolved. The first round of negotiations is currently in progress in Geneva. The main point in this agreement is that the refugees should return immediately to their homes. The next round will also be held in Geneva on 11 January and we will be going there with definite hopes. If this is realized and the refugees return to their homes, a peaceful regulation becomes realistic.

[Cassieri] The beginning of the conflict in this part of Georgia is naturally connected with the new composition of the Soviet Union. However, what, in your view, was the direct motive and basis for the intensification of the autonomous movement in Abkhazia; what process that has taken place in the former Soviet Union over the last two years was able to contribute to this?

[Shevardnadze] This is the manifestation of the reactionary separatist movement. Not everyone knows that this is Georgian land on which Georgians and Abkhazians have been living for centuries. If we speak about proportionate figures, Georgians make up one-half of the population, whereas the Abkhazians constitute only 17 percent. Who is supporting this 17 percent and how is it possible that 17 percent has been able to persecute 50 percent? This happened because the Abkhazian separatists were backed by Russia's reactionary force: Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, and the communists, fundamentalists and communists who were in the Supreme Soviet at the time. They rendered financial and material assistance and sent weapons and thousands of mercenaries there. This 17 percent is demanding that Abkhazia secedes from Georgia and unites with Russia.

[Cassieri] Apart from the responsibility of the old nomenklatura of the former Soviet Union, those people holding Soviet views, who, just two months ago, suffered another "purge," you specifically demanded that the

Russian Government also assume responsibility, particularly when you were in Sukhumi in August and September by which time the Abkhazians had surrounded the city. That is to say, you demanded that Yeltsin, whom you felt was not giving you the necessary support in order to defend Georgia, should assume direct responsibility.

[Shevardnadze] I believe that Yeltsin was unable to control the situation, as the Supreme Soviet at the time was putting up considerable resistance and the majority of deputies supported those separatist actions by the Abkhazians. Yeltsin was unable to overcome this opposition in his conflict with these people. The opposition between these two forces gave rise to and aggravated the conflict in Abkhazia as well. You know that I was in Abkhazia at that time. It was terrible to see the destruction of this most beautiful part of Georgia. [passage omitted]

[Napolitano] First of all, I would like to say to Batoni Shevardnadze that I have often thought about him and his brave step to struggle against so many problems that have arisen in Georgia. I respect you very much and admire your character. At the beginning of October, President [as published] Shevardnadze appealed to those countries in Europe on whose help he was counting. I would like to ask Batoni president to what extent have those questions that were raised been coordinated on an international scale and what help is needed and what can the West do in this respect.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you very much. I likewise greet all of you and thank you for such an appraisal of my activities. My appeal, which has just been mentioned, signified our saving Georgia and democracy. It is a question of the salvation of democracy here, as Georgia has chosen a difficult path in a region that is already very difficult from a geographical point of view. The problems that were mentioned in my appeal are still pressing; the situation in Georgia remains very serious. There is total hunger. Georgia used to be a rich country where the people lived well. However, we now have hunger and cold. This is the fate of our nation. There are now hundreds of thousands of refugees in Georgia. If it were not for the help from the West, in particular from Italy and other countries, the situation in Georgia would be much worse. I appeal once more to everyone to whom the ideals of democracy are dear, to help Georgia so that, through our combined efforts, we can save this small but, at the same time, great country that has a centuries-old civilization. Once again, I thank you very much for your help.

[Giacovazzo] In spite of the great sympathy that I feel toward Batoni Shevardnadze, I do not have such a good knowledge of the problems in Georgia. I am more interested in issues related to Russia. The Zhirinovskiy problem is of concern to everyone at the moment, a problem that relates not only to the present time, but also to the future. Is it possible that this populist, ultraright-wing leader—I don't know what to call him—will enjoy even greater success in the 1996 presidential elections? To what extent is he a serious threat? Will we not see a

unification of the left around Yeltsin? I have one more question that directly concerns Italy: You know that, this year, Italy is presiding over the Security Council that unites 54 states including all the republics of the former Soviet Union. Italy wants to make active use of its status in the council and bring to a hasty end all the different conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, in particular those taking place in Georgia. I would like to know how effectively Batoni Shevardnadze thinks this role may be used and what is possible for Italy to do this year as council president?

[Shevardnadze] I will try to answer in brief these difficult questions. I assumed that this process would occur in Russia and that 15-20 percent would support Zhirinovskiy. I was mistaken, but this had to take place in Russia. I think that this is due not so much to the victory of Zhirinovskiy's ideas, but rather to confusion among the electorate. Zhirinovskiy should have appeared after the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, it is unfortunate that the forces that were standing alongside him enabled him to acquire such influence. This is indeed worrying. However, there is the other side of the coin: Following Zhirinovskiy's success, Russian society has come to its senses. Unfortunately, prior to the elections, many democrats did not view him as a serious force and, therefore, I think they were justly punished. I am left with the impression that Russia's democrats have to unite and I believe that this will indeed happen. They will unite to prevent the emergence of fascism. If they unite, fascism will not take hold. If the democrats do not unite and fascism strengthens its hold, this will be terrible not only for Russia, but also for Europe and the whole world. However, I believe that this will not happen. Russia achieved great success when it adopted a new constitution. This creates a serious guarantee of democracy and this Constitution will enable President Yeltsin to eradicate fascism and dictatorship. I think that President Yeltsin will make use of this. Regarding the Security Council, I pin great hopes upon it. It should adopt an even more firm position particularly regarding such questions as ethnic conflicts. The Security Council can do this. Conflicts characterize the Caucasus, particularly Georgia. Europe should think how, as one force, it can overcome the economic crisis. If this crisis is not overcome on such a large territory, chaos could ensue, which will cost the world dear. I pin great hopes on Italy's presidency of the Security Council. We are ready to cooperate in every way possible so that your presidency will make an appreciable contribution. [passage omitted]

[Spadolini] I warmly greet President Shevardnadze and I fondly remember our first meeting in Rome in 1991 when your book "Freedom for the Future" was being presented. I recall your comments, which proved to be incredibly correct, a few months before the coup in Russia, about Gorbachev's future actions and your view that this transformation may not have brought the expected results. The freedom that was written about in that book is now more urgent than ever, as is the independence of Georgia....

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Let me give you my answer. The likes of Gamsakhurdia, Zhirinovskiy, Ardzinba in Abkhazia, and certain others in Russia are a dangerous phenomenon and I believe that, after World War II, the world paid less attention to fascism and analogous movements. In my view, this has cost the world very dearly and, therefore, we have to be vigilant and, what is more, analyze aggressive separatism and not tolerate what has happened in our region. As for Zhirinovskiy's supporters—Gamsakhurdia and the others—I myself know, through having had direct contacts with them over two years, that they are surrounded by many inexperienced people. Our people, for example, realized very quickly what Gamsakhurdia represented. This was the reason for his defeat. The great majority of his supporters are cooperating with us today. I am certain that we will cooperate with almost all of them as Gamsakhurdia propagated the ideas of national exclusivity, irreconcilability with other nations, and religious intolerance, and they could not have any future. People realized this and we are now cooperating with them. Many of Zhirinovskiy's supporters have chosen a different path. It only requires the unification of the democrats and Zhirinovskiy will no longer be dangerous.

[Cassieri] As the former [Soviet] foreign minister, you naturally know all the Soviet Union's secrets. When Zhirinovskiy threatened to use the "ultimate weapon," whom do you think he had in mind? The future destruction of their arch enemy or awkward neighbors? In your view, what was meant by this, if anything at all?

[Shevardnadze] I think that what Zhirinovskiy is saying represents the nostalgia of certain circles in Russia. Of course, it is based on Russian chauvinist ideology. We should view this as a chauvinist movement and a type of fascism: A chauvinist world outlook and imperialist nostalgia—these are the two main characteristics of this movement. I would like to repeat once more that, in order to overcome this, it is essential for all democrats in Russia to unite.

[Spadolini] I realize that the European model is more acceptable for the CIS than the U.S. one. I am pleased to hear your view that Yeltsin will be able to curb the fascist-chauvinist wave that is currently affecting Russia. However, is Batoni Shevardnadze aware that the European Community is facing a great danger? Separatist movements have intensified in certain EC countries. Do you think that the same danger awaits the CIS? In short, is there a risk of a second Yugoslavia in Russia?

[Shevardnadze] When we compare the prospects for the development of the European Community and the CIS, I believe that the principle underlying the unification of the countries in the CIS should be the same as that which underlies the European Community. If this happens, the CIS will be a viable prospect. This is the first thing. The second demand: The CIS will survive provided that Russia proceeds along the path of democratic development. This is an essential condition. God forbid that it will happen, but if dictatorship becomes established in Russia and

Russia's reactionary forces are victorious, naturally, the CIS will perish and I am convinced that Russia, likewise, will no longer survive. Therefore, the future of the CIS and Russia lies only along the path of democratic development. I think that Batoni Yeltsin understands this well. I will remind him of one step that has been taken: One of my friends, Aleksandr Yakovlev, a well-known Russian democrat, has been made head of Russian television. I think this is a very important fact. There should be more of these actions.

[Silvestri] I do not want to talk about the so-called "ultimate weapon" as I think that Batoni President Shevardnadze was right in saying that the ultimate weapon of war was political force. Moreover, Russia does have the ultimate—atomic—weapon, which is enough. It is more difficult to achieve stability in this region. Proceeding from this, I wanted to ask President Shevardnadze whether it will be possible to create elements of stability in the Black Sea region if there continue to be prolonged national conflicts between Muslims and Christians, in the main, in the Caucasus region.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. This is how I see it: Given that there existed such a grandiose and most-powerful empire as that of the Soviet Union and that very little time has elapsed since the collapse of the Soviet totalitarian system, we should not be surprised that such a short period of time has been extremely dramatic. I believe that the world should take a better look at these processes. The changes that have occurred on our planet since the collapse of the Soviet Union are the subject of a separate discussion and the events in our region are taking place precisely against the background of this process. We have to take into account that not all the people were ready for independence. We are now passing through this difficult school. I firmly believe that we will achieve stability and that the Caucasus will likewise become a stable region. I would like to highlight two points here: 1. The importance of the CIS, if only from the point of view that it is necessary to revive the economy and it is impossible to do this unless ties are restored between the republics of the former Soviet Union; 2. The great unification of neighboring countries. The foundations for such an alliance have already been laid between the CIS and the countries of the Black Sea basin. Their principles of collective security are gradually coinciding and I believe that Europe and NATO should direct their attention to such regions as the Caucasus. The Caucasus is no less an explosive region than the Balkans. Therefore, I think that, in order to achieve peace, we have to implement collective measures. An explosion in the Caucasus could have the most serious consequences on a global scale, if we take into account what states could become involved in such a conflict. I would like to be more optimistically minded and think about peace and stability.

[Chiseri] As the program is coming to an end, we would like to draw certain conclusions: You correctly pointed out that one important factor that created a big danger to peace was aggressive separatism. Don't you think that

there exist many reasons in the world for such a danger, for example, Islamic integration, which has surfaced in your region as well?

[Shevardnadze] I don't think this is the main reason. Such countries as Georgia have a centuries-old experience of religious coexistence. In this small country, whose population is only some 5 million, members of the Orthodox Church, Muslims, members of the Armenian national church [grigorianelebi], and Catholics have lived together for centuries. Georgians and Jews have lived together for 26 centuries and there have never been any conflicts between them, either of a religious or any other nature. It is precisely because we are located on the border between Islam and Christianity that history has enabled us to acquire experience, on the basis of which I am able to say that Georgians will live peacefully with people of all religions. I believe that it is possible to achieve a peaceful and stable situation. We also have to take into account the economic crisis. I think that, as soon as we overcome our economic difficulties, it will become easier for us to achieve stability as well.

[Napoli] We have been speaking of Islam and Zhirinovskiy's "secret weapon," but the greatest danger to Europe is presented by those four republics, in particular Ukraine, that were left with nuclear weapons following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

[Shevardnadze] I have very close relations with Ukraine's political forces. I know very well how they are disposed to this issue and I believe that the existence of nuclear weapons in Ukraine is being dramatized too much. The right course was not taken from the very start when we should have spoken with Ukraine as a country that possesses nuclear weapons. All the different nuances were not taken into account in time. I am certain that Ukraine will adhere to a position that befits a civilized country. I do not think that Ukraine presents any threat. I exclude such a danger.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to ask you a question that any Italian might ask. You were a great friend of Gorbachev. Some three years ago, you separated from one another amid great uproar. Have you maintained personal relations with him? Do you think that Gorbachev is planning a political comeback?

[Shevardnadze] As regards my personal relations with Gorbachev, they are excellent. I respect him greatly and believe that he is one of the greatest persons of our century. As for his political future, I do not think that my good friend has a big political future. However, politics is full of paradoxes and one cannot exclude anything. If we reason according to the established laws of society, we should conclude that he has already fulfilled his mission and he will probably not be given the chance to embark on another. (passage omitted)

[Unidentified correspondent] What is your personal view of U.S. President Clinton?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that the American people have elected a worthy president.

[Cassieri] A few months before his departure from the political arena, Gorbachev said in self-criticism that the unification of the two Germanies had been a premature step, a political mistake [defekti]. The same has been said by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. If you were speaking as foreign minister, what would you say in self-criticism?

[Shevardnadze] Regarding the unification of Germany, I believe it came too late. If this unification had occurred earlier, say in 1986, it would have been better. As for self-criticism, had both Gorbachev and I been able to control the collapse of the empire, this, naturally, would have spared us many problems. [passage omitted]

Ioseliani on Geneva Talks, Future of Mkhedrioni

AU2601172994 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Dzhaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation at the negotiations with the Abkhazian side in Geneva and commander of the "Mkhedrioni" paramilitary group, by Inga Nizharadze in Tbilisi; date not given: "The Fact That We Are Right Is Recognized by the World"]

[Text] [Nizharadze] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Dzhaba, how did the second round of negotiations in Geneva go [on 11-13 January]?

[Ioseliani] Relatively normally. The main thing is that the world public and Russia are on our side. The fact that we are right in this matter is recognized by everyone. The Abkhazian side was constantly balking by clinging to unsubstantiated facts, as a result of which the negotiations were almost suspended. Judge for yourself: They submitted the most stupid conditions regarding the question of refugees—that we take back only women, old men, children, and those men who did not take part in the fighting. In short, the Abkhazians conducted themselves in an uncertain manner, evidently realizing that their position was not right. Their fanaticism is the first sign of their lack of confidence. A fitting role was played by the UN, CSCE, and U.S. representatives who advised the Abkhazian side to behave more sensibly and not to pin their hopes on the world recognizing Abkhazia as a separate state from Georgia. In this way, the communique, which suited us and corresponded to the interests of Georgia, was signed. However, the Abkhazians called the methods ostensibly used to force them into signing this document "Beria-type methods." In answer to this, I told a joke, reminding them of the famous Abkhazian dramatist who, unfortunately, had not managed to write anything as he had been shot in 1937 by Lavrentiy Pavlovich [Beria].

[Nizharadze] However, the view is being expressed that the second round of talks in Geneva ended in complete failure for the Georgian side....

[Ioseliani] This is not how I view it. The talks were productive. The return of refugees to Gali rayon is to begin already on 10 February. This will be the first stage, following which refugees will return to the other rayons of Abkhazia. There will be complete disarmament and the withdrawal of all kinds of voluntary formations and individuals who went there to take part in the conflict, and so forth. I would advise those who think that we suffered a fiasco at the talks not to make such statements and draw such hasty conclusions.

[Nizharadze] What can you say about Russia's position at the second round of the negotiations?

[Ioseliani] That Russia undoubtedly feels its guilt and is trying in every way to make amends. Naturally, the Russians have got what they wanted: They will put on blue helmets and will fulfill the role of peacekeepers, not forgetting the fact that the peacekeeping forces are financed by the UN.

[Nizharadze] During your absence, the decision was adopted to disarm the "Mkhedrioni." How did you react to this and is there any truth in the rumors that the "Mkhedrioni" intends to re-elect its commander?

[Ioseliani] Let it disarm. If this proves beneficial and helps to improve the criminal situation in the republic, we are ready to obey and submit to this decision. The weapons will be kept in a safe place and, if it becomes necessary, we will again arm ourselves. Of course, it's a pity. The "Mkhedrioni" has been fighting for four years now; during this time, we have lost 632 fighters and about 1,000 have been wounded. Probably the time has now come for the police to take over; they have been taking cover somewhere and are now swaggering about and dictating to us how we should behave. This is the law of life. This is what happened to the famous English Prime Minister Churchill who was not re-elected after the war because, as they put it: The war is over. Why do we now need Churchill? As regards my re-election, I would be glad if this happened. However, these are rumors, as are the claims that I have headed off to Austria with a 24 year-old girl in tow.

Gamsakhurdia's Son on Preferred Burial Site

LD2601133794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1110 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Paris, 26 Jan—A service in memory of the late Zviad Gamsakhurdia was held on Sunday at St. Nino's Georgian church in Paris.

Iberia's own correspondent reports from Paris that the service was attended by representatives of the Georgian emigre community. Present at the service was Z. Gamsakhurdia's son Konstantine and his family.

After the service, Father Archil read a text which did not mention that Gamsakhurdia had committed suicide.

"The leader of the national movement, Z. Gamsakhurdia, was killed in an act of treachery and cruel cynicism," Father Archil pointed out.

After the ceremony, Father Archil told the Iberia correspondent that it was impossible to establish the fact of Gamsakhurdia's suicide. "He was a true Christian and could not have killed himself," Father Archil said.

In answering the Iberia correspondent's question about the place where Z. Gamsakhurdia is buried, Konstantine Gamsakhurdia said that the body should be within a 30-km radius of Zugdidi. In his opinion, the Georgian authorities are in possession of the body and the reports that the village of Jikhaskari is under the control of Gamsakhurdia supporters are rumors spread by Kremlin agents. In reality, Mkhedrioni units are in the village, and they are carrying out a genocide of the Samegrelo population, Konstantine Gamsakhurdia pointed out.

It should be noted that many representatives of the Georgian community in France were opposed to holding the service, since, in their opinion, this would cause a deterioration of relations with the present authorities in Georgia.

Probe Into Killing of U.S. Diplomat Continues

MK2601141094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Georgia"]

[Text] On 24 January Georgia's Supreme Court continued its investigation into the killing of U.S. diplomat Fred Woodruff. To date it has been established that the defendant—a Georgian Army private—shot at the car that carried the American diplomat virtually without aiming, in response to the driver's refusal to spare him some gas.

Official Links Patsatsia to Planned 'Coup'

AU2601161294 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Bachuka Kardava, assistant to the chairman of the Georgian National-Democratic Party,

board member of the all-Georgian movement "New Generation," by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA correspondents Inga Abgarova, Tinatin Gviniashvili; place and date not given: "A Coup Is Being Prepared in Mingrelia on a Regional Scale"]

[Text] This is what Bachuka Kardava, assistant to the chairman [Georgiy Chanturiya] of the Georgian National-Democratic Party [NDP], board chairman of the all-Georgian movement "New Generation," stated in a conversation with our correspondents.

[Kardava] The keys to the resolution of problems in western Georgia, in particular in Mingrelia, lie in Tbilisi. All events that are taking place and being provoked in Mingrelia are being directed from the capital Tbilisi. Various politicians have always used Mingrelia and the problem of Zviadism as a card in their dirty game. Now, prominent people from the Cabinet of Ministers headed by the prime minister are standing behind those people who are preparing a coup directed against the rational policy being implemented by the current leadership of the rayon. Wasn't he [Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia] Zugdidi Gamgebeli [head of the local governing body] when, last winter, a relatively small group of Zviadists miraculously seized a large amount of military equipment that was being dispatched for the purposes of military combat in Abkhazia? In this case, it is not important whether Tengiz Kitovani, the defense minister at the time, knew about this or not.

What has been done cannot be undone. Today, in Zugdidi, former Zviadists, having united into a group and having received the status of military police, present a danger. After all, these are the same people who, in their time, having been in a position to help Sukhumi, did not cross the Kodorskiy range. I am in possession of precise information according to which they are being backed by important political figures.

I spoke about this at a closed session of the NDP congress and at the conference of the Mingrelian branch of the NDP. I am certain that this is clear sabotage against the head of state, and people are taking part in this whom one would not accuse at first sight. However, the culprits will, nevertheless, be made to answer. Their hidden game is becoming too obvious.

Estonia**Russian Police Delay Turnover of Paldiski Office***WS2701094994 Tallinn BNS in English 1927 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 26, BNS—The passport office of a Russian police station in the former military base town of Paldiski in Estonia has still not turned over to Estonian authorities the files of the town's registry of residents. Russian officials earlier had promised to end the delay and hand the files over by Jan. 27.

The head of the Russian passport office at Paldiski today failed to turn out for a scheduled meeting with the Estonian commandant of the town, Col. Raul Luks, said Taimi Laar, municipal secretary at Paldiski.

Estonian officials say it is impossible to prepare for elections for the Paldiski town council or establish a normal civilian rule in the town until the files are delivered.

Justice Minister Kaido Kama, however, has said the files drawn up and held by the local Russian police office without any authorized supervision lately cannot be trusted. He said that even if the files were to be returned, Estonia would still have to call a new municipal census, and the country's own officials will have to register the town's legal residents anew.

Laar said the Russian passport office until very lately had continued issuing Estonian resident's passport inscriptions, which currently is the only means of confirming the passport holder's permanent resident's status.

She insisted that the office close its doors finally by Thursday. "If they won't close the doors by Jan. 27, we will have every reason to raise alarm," she added.

New Russian Military Garrison Leader Appointed*WS2701093794 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in
English 1812 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[Text] Tallinn, January 26—Russian military garrison stationed in Tallinn has new head, rear admiral Anatoliy Gavrilov, formerly chief of staff at the garrison. Admiral Yuriy Belov, former head of the Tallinn navy base, has retired and left Tallinn.

Lobby Group Concerned Over Estonians in Petseri*WS2701095794 Tallinn BNS in English 1927 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 26, BNS—Leaders of the Petserimaa league, a lobbying group that stands for reunification of the Petseri/Pechory region with Estonia, expressed worries about the situation of Estonian citizens in the region now governed by Russia.

Russian authorities are at unease because the number of holders of Estonian passports is growing in the region, the leader of the Petserimaa league, Reet Tobre, said in a press conference today.

She said Russia was demanding that these people formally gave up their Russian citizenship. But this would also strip them of the right to own real estate in the region. After giving up Russian citizenship they would also have to apply for a special permit from Russian authorities to enter the border zone.

Tobre said Russia was constantly tightening its border regulations, thus making it more and more difficult for Estonian citizen residents to cross the border to Estonia.

The leader of the lobbying group didn't tell the number of Estonian citizen residents of the Petseri region, an Estonian territory between the two World Wars, saying she would do so only after Russia reveals the names of Estonian residents who have become officially Russian citizens.

The Soviet Union cut the region off from Estonia together with a strip of land in the North, east of the Narva river, and annexed the territories to Russia after World War II.

The Russian embassy in Tallinn so far has only said more than 42,000 Russian citizens are living in Estonia. Embassy officials say they cannot reveal the names of Russian citizens, as Estonian authorities might begin a persecution of these people.

Tobre said that was rather the case with the Estonian citizens living in Russia.

Government Closes Down Trade Mission in Ukraine*LD2601164894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in
Estonian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Estonian government decided to close its trade mission in Ukraine. The prime minister's reason for this is the fact that the trade mission was set up in Ukraine a long time ago and has failed to fulfill the goals set for it. Furthermore, our trade mission has not yet been accepted in Ukraine to the required degree. Now that there is also an Estonian Embassy in Kiev, the trade mission's primary functions can be met through the embassy. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Plan To Privatize Distilleries*WS2601210594 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 26, BNS—The Estonian Economics Ministry in its activity abides by a government ruling from Oct. 25, 1993, which says the country's two major distilleries are to remain in state ownership, Economics Minister Toivo Jurgenson told BNS.

The minister was commenting on reports published by the ARIPA EV weekly newspaper, which said the Liviko company and the Moe distillery could be included in the list of companies for privatization.

He said the ministry was not going to bring up the issue at current discussions.

Latvia

Commander Mayorov Fails To Sign Handover Papers

WS2701095694 Tallinn BNS in English 1927 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 26, BNS—Leonid Mayorov, the commander in chief of the Russian Northwest Army Group, failed to sign around 100 documents on military property handover to Latvian authorities, said Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the bureau monitoring the troops' withdrawal.

The Russian servicemen have already quitted the installations, Upmalis said. Responsible officers handed the property over to Latvia, according to takeover-handover statements.

Mayorov, however, declined to sign the papers with a pretext he was not authorized to do that.

From the Latvian party, the papers were signed by State Property Minister Edmunds Krastins.

Mayorov may sign the papers after coordinating the signature with the representative of the Russian State Property Committee, who resides in Latvia, the army group's press officers told BNS that.

The resolution of the problem may take much time because many army bases have proprietors other than the Defense Ministry, said the bureau's deputy head Ludis Pavilonis.

Pavilonis claimed that the issue should be brought to interstate talks. Otherwise, the signature of documents on every separate property unit depends on the political situation in Moscow or else considerations.

Russian Order on Use of Weapons Condemned

WS2601124194 Riga DIENA in Latvian 19 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Zemribo: The Order of the North-Western Army Group Means Violation of Latvia's Sovereignty"]

[Text] Riga, 18 January—The Chairman of the Latvian High Court Gvido Zemribo termed the North-Western Army Group commander's order, issued on 14 January, granting Russian military persons the right to use weapons in a conflict situation an evident violation of the sovereignty of the Latvian State. In a statement distributed today, G. Zemribo recalls that according to

the Latvian Constitution, Latvia is an independent democratic state recognized by many countries of the world, that it is sovereign, and that "only the institutions of the Republic of Latvia have legislative, executive, and judicial power on the territory of Latvia and the power of any other state on it is absolutely excluded." The establishment of the principles of law in Latvia is the prerogative of the Latvian Government and other executive institutions. Nobody has granted such rights to the Russian Army.

DIENA has already written that the commander-in-chief of the North-Western Army Group has issued an order which states that "in the event of an assault or any other illegal action against Russian soldiers or military structures, they should be solved by all possible means, including the use of weapons. In the event of an attempt to occupy a military object, one should open fire" [na porozenije].

As the chairman of the High Court therefore concludes, the order of the North-Western Army Group commander foresees that the decision about whether or not the action is lawful will be made by a soldier. "How dangerous this is and where it can take us, we can see in the examples of many bloody events on the territory of the former Soviet Union".

After having read this statement at a press conference, G. Zemribo recalled that the Russian Army is stationed on the territory of Latvia illegally, and that Latvia has no agreement with Russia stating that the soldiers of the Russian Army are not submitted to Latvian jurisdiction. Therefore they will have to answer for their deeds in accordance with the Latvian laws—and this concerns the users of the weapons as well as those who have given them the respective orders. These crimes will be investigated by Latvian investigation institutions, not by the Russian military prosecution.

According to G. Zemribo, he is distributing this statement as the chairman of the High Court, and he does not wish to pay attention to the political aspect of this matter because "the court stays above politics". His only aim is to call Russia's attention to the possible juridical consequences of the announcement of the North-Western Army Group.

DIENA already wrote that the order of the chief of the North-Western Army Group was given after the incident that took place on 10 January between former president of Vidzeme District People's Deputies Council in Riga, Andrejs Rucs, and two generals of the Russian Army. Until now, only Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis has publicly expressed at a press conference his personal opinion that this order cannot be regarded as a correct answer to the president's correct behavior during the 10 January incident.

Birkavs, Others Depart for World Economic Forum

*WS2701095194 Tallinn BNS in English 1927 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Riga, Jan 26, BNS—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, Economics Minister Ojars Kehris and Bank of Latvia's President Einars Repse left for Switzerland Wednesday [26 January] to join the World Economics Forum in Davos.

The three-day forum will focus on the impact of geopolitics on the European security; global and regional micro-and-macroeconomics; unemployment; international trade; national and regional competition; and worldwide cooperation principles.

The issue of the Baltics as a temporarily undetermined geopolitical zone will be another topic for discussions.

The forum's activities will proceed in eight interest groups. Birkavs plans to join the subgroup of world economics leaders, according to the Government Information Agency (VIA).

Birkavs has prepared several speeches for the forum, centering on the role of the Baltic states in the world community and the economic stability and political security of Latvia.

"The consequences of the World War II are not completely removed yet. Regarding our country, they represent a stumbling-block that does not allow Latvia to integrate into the world processes efficiently and flexibly enough," Birkavs told VIA before his departure to the forum. "This obstacle will only vanish after the world recognizes its existence," Birkavs said.

During the forum, Birkavs is scheduled to meet with its Chairman Flavio Kotti, Nordic leaders, prime ministers of the Czech Republic, Belgium, Iceland, Hungary, Austria and India, and presidents of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Birkavs will also have talks with the World Bank leadership.

The Baltic premiers plan to stage a joint press conference Jan. 28 for journalists accredited to the forum.

Birkavs is scheduled to return home Feb. 1.

The World Economics Forum is an independent, non-governmental institution that unites leaders of states, businesses and sciences. It aims to promote cooperation of world countries in the name of economic and social progress. The first forum convened in 1971 at the Swiss government's initiative.

Birkavs Meets Agricultural Workers From Liepaja

*WS2601144994 Riga LETA in English 0548 GMT
26 Jan 94*

[Text] Riga, January 26 (LETA)—On Tuesday [25 January], agricultural workers from the Liepaja region met with the Latvian prime minister, Valdis Birkavs, in order to inform him of the present conditions of farmers in the region. The minister of agriculture, Janis Kinna, also participated in the meeting. Farmers are dissatisfied with high interests on the credit and insufficient state subsidies for agriculture. Prices have not been regulated, thus, a farmer has to sell five litres of milk in order to buy a litre of gasoline.

Janis Kinna told farmers that 11.9 million lats will be allocated for crediting of sowing. The state will allocate agricultural subsidies in the amount of 6.6 million lats. However, the term of the allocation of subsidies is yet unknown, money will be granted either in spring or in summer.

Valdis Birkavs pointed out that "it is not easy to go along the road towards normal agricultural production." Investments planned for the development of agriculture are insufficient. Speaking on the policy of the Bank of Latvia, Mr. Birkavs said that it is badly orientated to the economic development of the republic and that measures for strengthening of the bank system will be taken.

Today, the Latvian prime minister leaves for Switzerland in order to participate in an economic forum there. The president of the Bank of Latvia, Einars Repse, and economic minister Ojars Kehris, will participate in the forum, as well.

Leading Politicians, Political Agenda Profiled

*PM2601145194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Jan 94 First Edition p 5*

[Report by correspondent Irina Litvinova: "The Smiling Prime Minister Prefers To Act When Parliament Is In Recess"]

[Text] Riga—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis is in an unenviable position: He has admitted so many times that the east is still the Achilles heel of Latvian foreign policy, but unexpected political developments, such as the recent arrest of some Russian generals, keep putting off his desire to rectify the situation.

Guntis Ulmanis is new to politics. Until now, only his surname was well known: His grandfather's brother, Karlis Ulmanis, was perhaps the most striking figure in the history of prewar Latvia. Many were sceptical about the political future of the young Ulmanis, but they have been proved wrong.

He is frank, open, and not afraid to assume responsibility—that is, of course, obvious. Ulmanis travels around the republic to meet people a great deal. According to the

constitution, the president's functions are largely representative. He apparently does not bear political responsibility for the many decisions adopted by the Saeima (parliament) and the government. But it is clear that Guntis Ulmanis does not intend to be a mere figurehead. Admittedly, the president's potential to exert a more active influence on the situation is limited by legislation. That is why the quantity of his meetings with ordinary people and political leaders has yet to translate into quality of decisions and actions. Is this not indicated by the slight drop in the head of state's rating at the beginning of January: Words are all very well, but what about some action?

The Latvian leader's hobbyhorse is the unity of the Baltic countries. On taking up office, Ulmanis organized a meeting of the three Baltic presidents; and he constantly consults with them on all the most important aspects of foreign policy.

A feature of the Latvian situation is that the president, the Saeima, and the government have managed to retain unity. This conflict-free existence is perhaps explained by the fact that Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs' cabinet is formed by the ruling coalition in parliament, which incorporates the two leading factions: the Latvian Way and the Peasants' Union. When the Saeima is in recess, the Latvian government has extensive powers, which it uses. Valdis Birkavs, who headed the cabinet of ministers in the summer, is educated and a well-known lawyer. Journalists have nicknamed him "the smiling prime minister."

Birkavs can be seen as a veteran politician: He was deputy chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet. The prime minister endeavors to explain every move he makes and tries to avoid secrecy.

His team includes quite a few emigres, who have returned to help Latvia at this difficult time of revival. This certainly goes a long way to explaining their Western style of work, which means openness without fail.

Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs tries to maintain a balance between the wishes of emigre leaders—many of whom have not returned to the republic but help by championing Latvia's interests in the world arena—and the line taken by Latvia's own politicians. The minister believes that continuing talks with Russia will be the main task in 1994.

Janis Jurkans, Andrejevs' predecessor and current leader of the Latvian Accord faction, can be seen as the main opponent of the present foreign policy line. He believes that Latvian security can only be guaranteed by stabilizing Latvian society, which is impossible without serious consideration for the interests of Latvia's noncitizens, who make up one-third of the population. Jurkans does not dispute the idea of building a national, single-community state, but he proposes more liberal methods.

The desire to increase the percentage of Latvians in Latvia one way or another and bring their number up to a minimum of 75 percent is producing laws which are drawing increasing attention to Latvia in the world community. Latvian politicians have requested the European Union to set up a program to repatriate people wishing to leave the Latvian state. In their view, Western Europe must carry some of the blame for the fact that the consequences of World War II have not been eliminated in Latvia, as reflected in the demographic situation. So far, however, these appeals have met with no response from Western countries.

Latvia is also dissatisfied because Russia does not have a comprehensive program to take care of its compatriots. The internal problem of how to treat permanent residents of Latvia who are not automatically granted citizenship, as is done in other former Soviet republics, has become one of the main problems of Latvian foreign policy. There is no doubt that this is holding back the development of normal relations with Russia. Incidentally, Russians are not the only ones to be left in a state of limbo: 81,200 Belarusians, 58,000 Ukrainians, 25,000 Lithuanians, 23,000 Poles, 8,000 Jews, 3,000 Tatars, and 2,600 Germans are also without citizenship....

The foreign policy bias of the national radical opposition is well known: All those who have come to Latvia since 1940 are "colonists" with no rights other than the right to go back to their land of origin. And it looks as if this point of view is gaining increasing support. Judging by the results of sociological surveys, the positions of the Latvian Way faction were dramatically weakened on the eve of the local elections, but the hardliners have now strengthened them.

Import Tariffs Made Universal; Parliament To Vote

WS2601174694 Riga DIENA in Latvian 19 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Martins Kibilds: "The Custom Tariffs Are Changing"]

[Text] Riga, 18 January—According to a government decision, the customs tariff on imported goods has undergone a thorough change.

The main difference between the new and old tariff rules is the complete abandoning of the zero-tariff, that is—every imported item will be subject to a customs duty, even if only symbolic, said Minister of Finance Uldis Osis at a press conference following a cabinet meeting. Besides, government ministries will no longer have the right to exempt certain categories of goods from customs tariffs, which has become a rather common occurrence.

The new customs tariffs introduced by the Cabinet of Ministers have their legal basis in Article 81 of the Constitution, therefore they do not need to be approved by the parliament and they are effective as soon as they are published. Nonetheless, the government is to present the draft law regarding import duties to parliament on 15

February. The rules issued today will be in force until this law is approved by the parliament.

The average customs duty will be 15 to 20 percent, and it will depend not solely on the type good, but also on the kind of agreement that binds Latvia with the country from which the item is being imported. The lowest duties (0.5-1 percent) are provided for imported raw materials, which were imported duty-free until now. The duty on semi-finished products will amount to 3-6 percent, and the highest tariffs are expected to be imposed on finished products. The main criterion for fixing the customs duty will be the demand for a particular product in Latvia and the possibility of manufacturing that item locally. If demand is low and the same goods are being manufactured in Latvia, the duty will be accordingly higher. For this reason, one of the highest duties (upwards of 50 percent) is expected on food, which—as is commonly known—Latvia can produce on her local market.

U. Osis expressed the view that the new tariffs—in their ideal form—would protect the domestic market from an invasion of outside goods. However, to achieve this, it is necessary to provide proper customs control and a duty collection mechanism.

Lithuania

Ignalina Plant Set To Resume Operations 28 Jan
WS2601203594 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 26, BNS—The Ignalina nuclear power plant began preparations Wednesday [26 January] for a start-up of its first reactor that was shut down Jan. 18 when a crack was detected in the reactor's emergency cooling system.

Viktor Shevaldin, Ignalina director, said the reactor will start to operate at a minimum output Friday and should reach its previous 750-megawatt output by Monday.

Shevaldin said a thorough examination of the crack in the emergency cooling system confirmed preliminary forecasts that the stoppage should be rated zero on the International Atomic Energy Agency scale and can be regarded as "a minor incident."

The Lithuanian State Atomic Energy Inspection gave permission to start the reactor when the defect was repaired.

Second Unit Switched Off

LD2701120794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] On Wednesday night [26 January], the second unit of Lithuania's Ignalina nuclear power plant was shut down.

This nuclear power plant's information department told Interfax that after the first unit was switched off on

January 18 following a water leak, the second unit worked at a capacity of 1300 megawatts.

The same source announced that the second unit had been shut down following the failure of the manual control system for the reactor's stages (a button on the control board went out of operation).

The administration of the nuclear power plant stated that despite those malfunctions, the system of automatic control and the safety equipment remained in a working condition.

The reactor was shut down according to the safety regulations. The radiation situation did not change, says the administration's official press release.

Repair work has been done already and preparations are underway for putting the reactor back into operation, presumably on Friday.

In view of the 2nd unit's stoppage, Lithuania experienced a shortage of energy on Thursday, Lithuania's Deputy Minister for Energy Saulius Kutas told Interfax.

President Brazauskas Leaves for Netherlands

WS2601171594 Tallinn BNS in English 1349 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 26, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas left for a one-day visit to the Netherlands Wednesday morning.

The president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius and other officials.

The program of the visit includes meetings with Queen Beatrix, the Dutch premier and the leadership of the Dutch parliament.

Minister Gylys intends to sign a Lithuanian-Dutch agreement on investment protection and promotion.

On Thursday, the Lithuanian leader will be in Brussels, where he is scheduled to sign the Partnership for Peace framework document.

Brazauskas also intends to meet with the leadership of NATO, Secretary General of the European Union Willem Van Eskelen, Chairman of the European Commission Jacques Delors and Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene.

Meets Leaders in Holland

LD2601224194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The Lithuanian News Agency ELTA was informed from The Hague by Nerijus Maliukevicius, press attache of the Lithuanian president, that President Algirdas Brazauskas arrived on an official visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands this morning.

A solemn welcoming ceremony took place at (Valkenburg) military airport. [passage omitted]

The president was welcomed by the Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers. He presented to Brazauskas the people taking part in the welcoming ceremony. Brazauskas presented the Lithuanian delegation. [passage omitted]

The Lithuanian delegation arrived at the Royal Palace in the morning. Here the Lithuanian president was received by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix. At the start, the Queen and the president conversed for half an hour and then the Lithuanian guests were presented to Her Majesty. A luncheon in honor of the Lithuanian president was held. Queen Beatrix and Brazauskas exchanged speeches during the luncheon.

Brazauskas visited the Netherlands parliament in the afternoon. He met the chairmen of its lower and upper chambers. After a brief welcoming speech by the chairmen of the chambers, the president acquainted them with the priorities of Lithuanian foreign policy and replied to questions by the parliamentarians [words indistinct] the cooperation for peace program, Lithuania's economic situation and how the Netherlands state could help Lithuania.

[Foreign] Ministers Povilas Gylys and Pieter Kooijmans signed two agreements in the Foreign Ministry: On marine transport and on the incentives and protection of investments.

The Netherlands press focused a great deal on the visit. Two news conferences took place, one in the press center and the other in the residence occupied by the president. Journalists were mostly interested in Lithuanian-Russian relations, the stance on the document of cooperation for peace program, which is to be signed in NATO headquarters tomorrow [27 January].

The prime minister of the Netherlands gave a dinner for the Lithuanian president in the evening.

The Lithuanian delegation will leave The Hague for Brussels tomorrow morning.

Moscow Said To Want Communist Leaders' Arrest

PM2601141594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 7

[Report by Vladimir Zarovskis: "Moscow Wanted Arrest of Communists"]

[Text] Vilnius—Arrested Communists M. Burokevicius and J. Jermalavicius are now in Lukishskaya [as transliterated] Jail. The Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office is not carrying out any investigations, it is giving the "members of the professional underground," as they describe themselves, time to get accustomed to their new position. The first cross-examination showed that they do not really

realize what happened. M. Burokevicius is still in the jail sick bay with cardiac insufficiency.

Meanwhile the Lithuanian General Prosecutor's Office has asked the corresponding bodies in Russia for the extradition of a few other people involved in the Vilnius coup case: Major General A. Naudjunas, Colonel J. Kasperavicius, and the leaders of the former USSR's power ministries, V. Kryuchkov and D. Yazov.

"We would never have gotten M. Burokevicius and J. Jermalavicius had Moscow not wanted this," K. Gashka, member of the Sejmas National Security Committee, told the newspaper RESPUBLIKA. He has no doubt that leaders of the Communist Party of Lithuania have been deliberately handed over to Lithuania so that a third country's tasks can be carried out by means of their trial in Vilnius.

What has happened has caused vehement discontent in Belarus among the Communist faction in the Supreme Soviet and set-tos in parliament. Belarusian General Prosecutor V. Sholodonov has given orders for an inquiry to be started into his subordinates' involvement in the "abduction" of Burokevicius and Jermalavicius. The parliamentary commission for national security, defense, and the fight against organized crime in Belarus has asked for the republic's internal affairs minister, V. Yegorov, and KGB Chairman Ye. Shirkovskiy to be removed from their posts (the former's resignation has already been announced).

Belarusian Officials Deem Handover Illegal

LD2601231694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2200
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] In his interview with Lithuanian national radio Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius stated that relations between Lithuania and Belarus may deteriorate after two pro-Moscow communist leaders, who were among the organizers of the 1991 January crackdown in Vilnius, had been brought back from Minsk to Vilnius by the Lithuanian law enforcement officers.

The Belarusian MPs [word indistinct] their top law and order officials of handing over Mykolas Burokevicius and Juozas Jermalavicius to the Lithuanian side on an illegal basis. On Tuesday the Belarusian Parliament accepted the resignation of the Interior Minister and [words indistinct] service chief.

According to Prime Minister Slezevicius, the detention of the two communist hardliners was carried out successfully and had been coordinated with the law enforcement institutions in Belarus.

Meanwhile chairman of the Belarusian Parliamentary Committee on National Security, Mechislav Gryb, claims that the two men were detained in violation of the Belarusian and international law.

Speaking at a news conference in Minsk on Tuesday Mr. Gryb stated that the cases nine other persons wanted by

the Lithuanian law enforcement authorities would be reviewed on a separate basis and that any kind of, as he called, illegal handover, like that of Burokevicius and Jermalavicius, would not happen in the future.

Premier: Arrest To 'Cast a Chill'

WS2601210694 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 26, BNS—The reaction of Belarusian authorities to the arrest of two Lithuanian communist leaders in Minsk will "undoubtedly cast a chill over our relations" with Belarus, Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said on Lithuanian radio Wednesday.

The premier said he regrets such "energetic" reaction, which shows that Lithuania's neighbors "have not yet completely shaken off old principles and formulas." In Slezevicius' opinion, the problem also resulted from political tensions in Belarus.

The Lithuanian premier said the arrest operation in Minsk was indeed very successful and fully coordinated with Belarusian authorities.

Slezevicius said he will seek to further expand the earlier positive developments in Lithuanian-Belarusian relations.

Main Tenets of Draft Defense Doctrine Outlined

PM2601154994 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 3

[Valeriy Gromak report: "Lithuania's Draft Defense Doctrine Published"]

[Text] Vilnius—The purpose of defense is to protect the independence, inviolability, and territorial integrity of Lithuania and also to guarantee its citizens' safety from external threats, the preamble to this document states.

In what situations can Lithuania's armed forces be used? The document answers this question by saying that aggression by another state or military alliance, civil war in neighboring states or an armed conflict between them which might spread to Lithuania, an invasion by uncontrolled military units or other armed groupings, a large concentration of military force near the Lithuanian border, or international terrorism constitute such situations. True, Lithuania prefers primarily political and diplomatic methods to eliminate threats.

The draft also points out that in strengthening its security Lithuania cooperates with other states and international organizations and bases itself on the universally recognized principles of international law.

The army constitutes the basis of Lithuania's defense system.

The section on cooperation with foreign states' military structures provides for participation in joint exercises,

the training of joint peacekeeping subunits, and cooperation in guarding the state border.

No Agreement Reached With Kaliningrad on Transit

LD2601173394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Baltic News Service has reported that Lithuanian and Kaliningrad negotiators failed to achieve any specific agreement on the transit of Russian passengers and cargo through the territory of Lithuania.

Yuriy Khlebnikov, an official from the international department at the Kaliningrad region administration office, told journalists at a news conference today that the talks failed to bring results.

The talks were headed by Virgilijus Bulovas, head of the group for the talks with the CIS and ambassador at large, and Harry Shmykhov, first deputy head of the Kaliningrad region.

A joint protocol has been prepared by the group experts from both sides, which confirms Lithuania's intention to open a Russian transit corridor on her territory. Although no dates have been mentioned, it is expected however that the corridor could start functioning at the end of the current year. Places in Lithuania will have to be earmarked and the procedure on how this transit will be controlled will have to be defined.

Lithuania is going to get acquainted with the experience of the West Berlin transit corridor, which was in operation until the Berlin Wall had been demolished.

It was announced that Lithuania proposed to simplify the procedure of granting transit visas at the border crossing points to cargo vehicles carrying so-called national economy goods. It was announced at the news conference in Kaliningrad that all the Russian passenger trains except two would travel through Lithuania non-stop and without border checks.

Centrist Stresses Potential of Ukraine Ties

LD2601184994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Interview with Center Union chairman Romualdas Ozolas by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] While the politicians on TV are telling us about stabilization and improvement of living standards, what the people are saying is often quite the opposite: There is chaos in politics and there is stabilization of poverty in the families.

According to Romualdas Ozolas, Chairman of the Center Union and member of the Lithuanian Seimas, amid all this apparent confusion a common trend can be traced.

[Ozolas] In a nutshell this can be described as follows: fight for property. There are the left-wingers and there are the right-wingers, both sides are interested in grabbing as much as possible. This is carried out by using all means available—those which are permitted and those which are not. Therefore the racket which is kicked up around it quite often amounts to demagogue, intrigue, and plain deception.

I think that this all should disperse after the distribution of property has been completed, after the state property has been transferred into the hands of individual persons. This is natural, only the trouble is that in the meantime, lawlessness and disrespect to state institutions reign. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you agree that the distribution of property will be completed by 1996, namely by the time when the term of the members of the current parliament runs out. Then, as Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius pledged, the law on declaration of income and property by the state officials will come into operation.

[Ozolas] I think that in principle this is what is being planned: to introduce the declaration on income and property around 1996. At that time, the current top-ranking state officials and those who rank below them and yet are capable of grabbing something will no longer have to worry about their reputation and especially about their political reputation. Whether they are re-elected or not, this would be of no further importance. Therefore the government will make efforts to stay in power until the end of term and then as God wills.

There is a possibility that the current left-wing government would have to step down earlier. It is possible that this could be beneficial, however, if the right-wingers propose a similar policy, which is to support large capital—only then, I would not see any difference whether Lithuania is ruled by rich left-wingers or by rich right-wingers. [passage omitted]

I am very much concerned that the law on income and property declaration by the most senior state officials has not been introduced. I hope that we will push this law through although it will be somewhat spoiled, but then it would be better than nothing. It is simply annoying to hear about human rights violations in this matter when we know that this law is the basic means for the introduction of law and order in the financial life of the country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] At today's news conference, you also spoke about international affairs and you mentioned that the forthcoming visit by the Ukrainian president may become one of the most important events of early 1994.

[Ozolas] The Ukraine is the most important neighbor and a possible ally of Lithuania in Central Europe. There will practically be no Eastern Europe without the Ukraine and the Baltic countries. There would be fragments and pieces of it, such as the Vyshegrad group or the Baltic states without it. The appearance of the

sovereign Ukraine in Europe, and I say this believing that the Ukraine will continue to proceed towards her absolute independence from Russia... [pauses] If she fails to do this then our cooperation would be very much restricted. [passage omitted] However, if the Ukraine gets more and more independent, than I think both Lithuania and the Ukraine would have something to say concerning setting to right the life in Europe.

[Reporter] The Ukraine and Lithuania can cooperate not only in the economic sphere. You also attach great importance to the military union.

[Ozolas] To speak about a union would be too bold. So far there is no need to start designing such a union. However, if NATO continues to act as it has until now, then the countries of central and Eastern Europe would have to look for a way out of this situation and to set up their own security by their own efforts. Who else apart from the Ukraine can help Lithuania in such a situation and take care of the independence and security? In a political sense the Ukraine is neutral enough towards Lithuania and the Baltic states and the Ukraine has a great interest in Central Europe which cannot exist without Lithuania and the Baltic states. [passage omitted] These are mutual interests to put Europe in good order which would guarantee our independent life and peace in Europe. The Russian aggressiveness which is being manifested every day would inevitably influence Western Europe and I think that Western Europe will react to it by making similar steps. In this respect Central Europe has great possibilities for setting up a balance in Europe.

[Reporter] At the same time you said that NATO is at present not interested in cooperation with Eastern and central European countries.

[Ozolas] I would like to put it differently. It is interested not in pushing aside Russia which, feeling this interest of the United States as the main ally of Western Europe, endeavors to exert influence on Western Europe and the United States to be helpful. [sentence as heard]. This means the restoration of the former Soviet Union's expanse, and thus Russia mentions with exceptional ferocity the Baltic states. NATO responded to all this with silence. Clinton, our dear young president, also preferred to be silent. He even said that he himself would talk to the Baltic states about not insulting the Russian speaking people.

This is confusion by the U.S. president and much criticism has been levelled at him about this in his own country. I think that his telephone call to Latvia's president was an attempt to correct his behavior. But this is a very significant fact that a big state will always better understand another big state than a small one.

Therefore we say that we must pin our hopes on NATO, but mostly we must depend on our strength, incidentally, also with regard to our possible allies who live close by.

President Views Admission to NATO, Relations

AU2601154394 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 19 Jan 94 p 7

[Interview with President Algirdas Brazauskas, "exclusively for BERLINER ZEITUNG by IMA Press;" place and date not given: "We Want NATO Membership, But There Is No Feeling of Threat"]

[Text] [BERLINER ZEITUNG] Mr. President, what made the Lithuanians officially apply for NATO membership?

[Brazauskas] This decision is part of an ongoing process. Since the declaration of independence in 1990, we have proceeded along this path. This step is in line with the atmosphere in our society.

The precondition was the withdrawal of the Russian Army. Then I exchanged letters with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner. The resolution adopted by the Sejm on this issue on 23 December was also of major significance in this respect.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] Does your country feel threatened by Russia?

[Brazauskas] No.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] When you applied for NATO membership, did you take into consideration possible reactions by Moscow? Were there any consultations?

[Brazauskas] We expected a reaction from Moscow. It was quite strong and reflects the complicated situation in Russia itself. Yet we do not believe that this reaction is a danger to the good relations between Russia and Lithuania. We hope that every European country will find its place in the new European security structures.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] The collapse of the USSR began in the Baltic states. It seems as though the integration of former communist republics into Western structures begins there, too. Do you have the feeling that you are playing a special role and fulfilling a historic mission?

[Brazauskas] I do not believe that a single country, large or small, should be claiming that it is fulfilling a historic mission.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] Do you think that Lithuania's acceptance by the European Union might be sufficient as far as military security is concerned, or will NATO membership remain the vital and imperative objective?

[Brazauskas] We do not expect the issue of our NATO membership to be settled positively in the near future. Yet we hope that the process leading to membership will soon be initiated. Lithuania believes that it will join NATO via the European Union. To use a metaphor, the European Union will open the door for us. If we are able to make use of the new opportunities, we will be much closer to NATO.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] Mr. President, do you believe that in the current new historical period NATO should be giving way to new and broader security structures, including both the NATO states and the members of the former Warsaw Pact?

[Brazauskas] Forecasts are not very useful. What is important is for all countries from Vancouver to Vladivostok to feel secure in the future.

[BERLINER ZEITUNG] If Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic should become NATO members, Moscow will be left "outside." Do you think that this might have the effect of making Russia feeling psychologically isolated and less secure than today?

[Brazauskas] The system of antagonistic military blocs in Europe and the world should not be revived. We are obliged to ensure that the transformation and expansion of NATO does not provoke any hostile reactions from Russia. Lithuania does not want to isolate its eastern neighbors. I would like to make it clear that Lithuania's position toward NATO is not directed against neighboring states or other European countries, which must all find their place in the new security structures of the continent.

Border Defense Service Chairman Appointed

WS2601210494 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 26, BNS—The Lithuanian president has appointed career serviceman Stanislovas Stancikas as the head of the Lithuanian State Border Defense Service.

Colonel Stancikas, 47, held the post in 1991-1992, but was dismissed by then Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius.

The new chief border guard received his military education in Russia. The president's entourage characterizes him as "an initiative worker with a strong feeling of responsibility."

Stancikas replaced Petras Dragunaitis who served as the temporary head of the service.

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